United Nations

Medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

as revised by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session

General Assembly
Official Records • Fifty-third Session
Supplement No.6 (A/53/6/Rev.1)

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United Nations • New York, 1999

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as revised and reproduced in the present document, was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998. For further details on the deliberations leading to its adoption, please refer to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/53/743).

ISSN 1020-1947

Notes

1. The medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1) was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996.

2. Regulation 4.13 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (as revised by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/207) provides that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes.

3. The proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 were issued in 1998 in separate fascicles (A/53/6 (Prog. 1, 2, 3, 6, 13/Rev.1, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23 and Corr.1, 24 and Corr.1, 26, 27 and 28)); programmes 5, 7 and 8 were replaced by the new programme 28; and a new programme 27 was added. The narrative of the plan contained in the present document incorporates the revised programmes, as well as the nine programmes (4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 21, 22 and 25) to which no revisions were made. The following programmes have been modified:

Programme 1.	Political affairs
Programme 2.	Peacekeeping operations
Programme 3.	Peaceful uses of outer space
Programme 5.	Policy coordination and sustainable development (replaced by programme 28)
Programme 6.	Africa: New Agenda for Development
Programme 7.	Economic and social information and policy analysis (replaced by programme 28)
Programme 8.	Development support and management services (replaced by programme 28)
Programme 13.	International drug control
Programme 14.	Economic and social development in Africa
Programme 15.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
Programme 16.	Economic development in Europe
Programme 17.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Programme 18.	Economic and social development in Western Asia
Programme 20.	Humanitarian assistance
Programme 23.	Public information
Programme 24.	Administrative services (renamed Management and central support services)

Programme 26. Disarmament

Programme 27. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs an
conference services (new)

Programme 28. Economic and social affairs (replaced programmes 5, 7 and 8

4. The revisions were submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session. At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly considered the proposed revisions and the report of the Committee thereon (A/53/16). The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/207, adopted the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

[Original: English]

[4 May 1999]

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LAS	League of Arab States
OAS	Organization of American States

OAU	Organization of African Unity
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNPA	United Nations Postal Administration
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in t Near East
UNU	United Nations University
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

INTRODUCTION AND PRIORITIES

1. The medium-term plan is a translation of legislative mandates into programmes. Its objectives and strategies are derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. In this respect, the medium-term plan constitutes the principal policy directive of the United Nations.

2. In response to the need to address efficiently and effectively persistent problems, as well as to respond to emerging trends and challenges of the future, the Organization will, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, give priority to the following areas of work during the implementation of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

PROGRAMME 1. POLITICAL AFFAIRS

1.1 The overall objectives of the programme are to assist States involved in disputes or conflicts to resolve their differences peacefully in accordance with the principles of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations and, wherever possible, to prevent conflicts from arising. The programme also includes the promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions.

1.2 The Department of Political Affairs is responsible for the implementation of this programme and for the achievement of its objectives. Subsumed under programme 1 are elements that formerly constituted subprogrammes 1.1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, and 1.3, Research, collection and analysis of information, of programme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping, research and the collection and analysis of information; programmes 2, Political and Security Council affairs; 4, Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization; and 5, Question of Palestine, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised (A/47/6/Rev.1).

1.3 The mandate for programme 1 lies in the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretariat in the Charter of the United Nations, including Article 99 thereof, by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 47/120 A of 18 December 1992, entitled "An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters", and 47/120 B of 20 September 1993, entitled "An Agenda for Peace", as well as 52/12 A and B of 12 November and 19 December 1997 respectively, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", and by mandates of the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

1.4 Accordingly, execution of this broad programme will require:

(a) Monitoring, analysing and assessing political developments throughout the world;

(b) Identification of potential or actual conflicts that threaten international peace and security and in whose control and resolution the United Nations could play a useful role;

(c) Recommendations to the Secretary-General on appropriate action in cases referred to in (b) above and executing or assisting in the execution of the approved policy;

(d) Assistance to the Security Council and the Secretary-General in carrying out activities mandated by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Charter in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building;

(e) Providing the Secretary-General with advice on requests for electoral assistance and implementing or coordinating the implementation of such programmes;

(f) Providing the Secretary-General with support in the political aspects of his relations with Member States;

(g) Provision of secretariat services to the Security Council and its subsidiary organs and substantive services to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as assistance to and cooperation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate.

Subprogramme 1.1 Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

1.5 In recent years, there has been an increase in activities related to the maintenance of international peace and security as a result of which the Secretary-General has been requested to play a proactive role. The primary objective of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the regional divisions of the Department, is to support the Secretary-General in the discharge of his responsibilities for the pacific settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations and to assist in preventing, controlling and resolving conflicts around the world.

1.6 It would also be necessary to monitor political developments worldwide, so as to provide early warning of impending conflicts that threaten international peace and security. The Secretary-General is to be advised on measures to prevent, contain or resolve such conflicts and the General Assembly and the Security Council to be advised accordingly. The Secretary-General is to be assisted in undertaking preventive, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building activities as approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. The Secretary-General has designated the Department of Political Affairs as the United Nations focal point for post-conflict peace-building - that is, the mechanism for ensuring that United Nations efforts in countries that are emerging from crises are fully integrated and faithfully reflect the mission objectives specified by the Security Council and the Secretary-General. The Department of Political Affairs will carry out its functions in its capacity as convener of the Executive Committee for Peace and Security.

1.7 The Department of Political Affairs will collect information about potential and actual threats to international peace and security and conflicts, analyse information to identify situations in which the United Nations could play a useful role and advise the Secretary-General on what form the action may take. The Department will accordingly prepare reports to intergovernmental bodies and implement approved policies. As convener of the Executive Committee for Peace and Security, it will also coordinate and collaborate with other departments in the Secretariat, as well as with various United Nations programmes and agencies and regional arrangements and organizations. The Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs have developed a flow chart of actions - information-sharing, consultations and joint action - for the coordination of their respective activities in the planning and implementing of peacekeeping operations. This mechanism, known as the "framework for coordination", covers the departments' activities during routine monitoring and early-warning analysis, assessment of options for preventive actions where possible, fact-finding, planning and implementation of field operations, and conduct of evaluations or lessons-learned exercises. The Department of Political Affairs, in accordance with provisions of the Charter and as appropriate, will assist in enhancing the capacity of regional organizations relevant in early-warning and preventive peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building activities and facilitate close cooperation and coordination in those matters.

1.8 Activities of the subprogramme will also involve assistance in the preparation of, and participation in, special missions (fact-finding, goodwill, good offices) dispatched by the Security Council or by the Secretary-General. Special attention will be paid to the provision of guidance and support to special representatives and special envoys in the field of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building. Direct executive responsibility for United Nations missions in the field (other than peacekeeping operations), the primary purpose of which is to prevent, contain or resolve conflicts through peaceful means, rests with the Department.

1.9 The nature of the Organization's involvement in special missions is influenced by the evolution of international situations and is undertaken primarily at the request of the General Assembly or the Security Council and States. During the period 1998-2001, the Secretary-General, in implementing this subprogramme, will continue his efforts to enhance the Organization's capacity in the field of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking.

1.10 In implementing the subprogramme, the Department will strive in particular to reinforce the Organization's capacity for early warning and good offices, and for non-military measures to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts, as well as for resolving those which have erupted, while fully respecting the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Member States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, as well as the principle of consent, which is an essential element for the success of such efforts. The Department will also endeavour to enhance its capacity with regard to the political aspects of peace-building, as approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

Subprogramme 1.2 Assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States

1.11 The primary objective of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the regional divisions of the Department, is to provide the Secretary-General, continuously, with information, analyses and policy advice to facilitate the political aspects of his relations with Member States. As demand increases for the Organization's services in the maintenance of international peace and security, including conflict prevention, so does interaction between the Secretary-General and representatives of Member States, regional arrangements and organizations and non-governmental organizations. Interaction involves the support that the Secretary-General provides to Member States in preventing, controlling and resolving conflicts and the support that Member States provide to the Secretary-General in his efforts to that end.

1.12 The Department will prepare background briefs, talking points and profiles for meetings of the Secretary-General. It will also prepare drafts of the Secretary-General's correspondence on political issues with States, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations. The Department maintains and will further develop a central database related to international peace and security issues for use by the Secretary-General and senior officials, as well as Member States through the Secretary-General. Contact with relevant regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other private and academic research institutes, without compromising the impartiality of the United Nations, will also be maintained as part of this subprogramme to assist the Secretary-General in his political contacts with Member States.

Subprogramme 1.3 Electoral assistance

1.13 The main objective of this subprogramme is to render electoral assistance to Member States, on their request and in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, through provision of necessary technical and advisory support in coordinating their electoral activities. Activities in the field of electoral assistance have been carried out by the Electoral Assistance Division in response to General Assembly resolution 46/137 and its successive resolutions, namely, resolutions 47/130, 47/138, 48/131, 49/190, 50/185 and 52/129, in which it requested the Secretary-General to provide the Division with adequate resources to carry out its mandate.

1.14 The subprogramme will coordinate electoral assistance activities within the United Nations system and with regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Guidelines and operational manuals on electoral assistance will be further developed and a roster of international experts on electoral issues will be maintained and developed. The institutional memory on electoral assistance activities will be enhanced.

1.15 During the plan period, this subprogramme will contribute to an integrated approach to the maintenance of peace and security through the provision of electoral assistance by the Secretariat, at the request of Member States, as a means of supporting the Organization's efforts in preventive, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building activities. The subprogramme will continue to provide electoral assistance to requesting Member States with a view to assisting and strengthening domestic monitors and to providing support to international observers through coordination of their activities. The subprogramme will also focus on strengthening national capacity to organize and conduct democratic elections on a regular basis.

Subprogramme 1.4 Security Council affairs

1.16 The primary objective of this subprogramme is to provide authoritative advice and substantive services to the Security Council and its subsidiary organs in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the provisional rules of procedure of the Council and its past practice. The Security Council Affairs Division will facilitate liaison with presiding officers and members, prepare reports, analyse and research material, follow up the implementation of the Council's decisions and maintain contacts with organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

1.17 Given the unpredictable and urgent nature of the myriad of issues that face the Security Council, the provision of effective and continuous services, having regard to Article 28 of the Charter, is of paramount importance. To this end, effective and timely submission of the Council's parliamentary documentation, reports and communications for processing and their timely issuance in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and its programme of work will be ensured. Effective coordination of the meetings of the Security Council, its subsidiary organs and working groups and substantive support services provided to fact-finding missions dispatched by it will also continue to be ensured.

1.18 The various sanctions committees and other subsidiary organs and informal working groups of the Security Council will be provided with authoritative advice and substantive services. The Division will continue to be responsible, in particular, for the expeditious processing of applications from Member States for exceptions for humanitarian supplies in accordance with the procedures established by the various sanctions committees.

1.19 In addition, the subprogramme includes research and the preparation of analytical studies on the application and the interpretation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to the activities of the Security Council and its provisional rules of procedure. Following adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions 51/209 and 52/161, the Department will continue development of proposals for the merged format of the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council and the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs with a view to retaining the information contained in both of them. The new format will be presented for the approval of Member States in the progress report to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-third session. Under the new arrangements the Department will have a coordinating role for the production of the parts of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs devoted to the Security Council, while it will continue to prepare its own contribution. Proposals with a view to updating the Supplements and ensuring their regular publication in the future will be developed.

Subprogramme 1.5 Decolonization

1.20 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the decolonization process in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly for the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To strengthen the dissemination of information on decolonization in order to mobilize world opinion and to ensure the provision by the specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations of assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

1.21 The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples will continue to examine the application of the Declaration and to seek suitable means for its immediate and full implementation in all Territories that have not yet exercised their rights in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. It will formulate specific proposals to this effect, examine the full compliance with the Declaration and other resolutions, formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly, and enlist worldwide support for decolonization. The Special Committee will continue to dispatch visiting missions periodically to colonial Territories, in consultation with the administering Powers, so as to enable the Special Committee to obtain first-hand information on conditions in those Territories; examine the views, expressed orally or in writing by peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also the views of the representatives of non-governmental organizations and individuals with a knowledge of conditions in those Territories; and assist the General Assembly in making arrangements, in cooperation with the administering Powers, to secure a United Nations presence in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to observe or supervise the final stages of the process of decolonization.

1.22 The Department of Political Affairs will continue to assist the Special Committee in the implementation of its mandate, as well as the General Assembly, in connection with issues under this subprogramme, as appropriate. To that end, the Department will:

(a) Provide substantive servicing to the Special Committee and its visiting and other missions, as well as to the General Assembly when they review issues relating to decolonization;

(b) Undertake research, analytical studies and reports on conditions in the Territories;

(c) Provide assistance to the Special Committee in the preparation of its reports to the General Assembly;

(d) Collect, review and disseminate basic material, studies and articles relating to decolonization;

(e) Promote, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, a publicity campaign on decolonization. Subject to the relevant decisions by the Special Committee, this will entail organizing panel discussions and seminars, producing and disseminating publications, organizing exhibits and coordinating international activities aimed at the elimination of colonialism, including liaison with international organizations and individuals concerned with the problems of decolonization;

(f) Promote flows of assistance from specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to the people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

1.23 The Department of Political Affairs will provide the required substantive services to the Trusteeship Council and assist in preparing the reports of the Trusteeship Council, if it should meet, in accordance with its rules of procedure.

1.24 The Department of Political Affairs will also carry out research and prepare analytical studies on the application and interpretation of the relevant articles of the Charter of the United Nations related to activities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, their subsidiary organs and ad hoc bodies and the Trusteeship Council in the areas of trusteeship and decolonization, for inclusion in the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs.

Subprogramme 1.6 Question of Palestine

1.25 The question of Palestine was first considered by the General Assembly at its second session in 1947. By its resolution 3376 (XXX), the Assembly established the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and requested it to consider and recommend to it a programme of implementation designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights.

1.26 A major objective of this subprogramme is therefore to assist the Committee and the concerned parties in the promotion of a solution to the question of Palestine based on the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights. The Division for Palestinian Rights, which works in consultation with and under the guidance of the Committee, is responsible for providing secretariat services in support of this subprogramme.

1.27 A second objective of the subprogramme will be to assist the Committee in promoting the effective implementation of the agreements reached between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority and mobilizing international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people during the transitional period. The Middle East peace process gave rise to renewed hopes for final settlement and opened new possibilities for supportive action by the United Nations.

1.28 A third objective will be to heighten awareness of all aspects of the question of Palestine by providing forums to facilitate consideration of relevant issues and promote dialogue among parties concerned, Governments, United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and prominent personalities.

1.29 A fourth objective will be to continue to provide information on the question of Palestine and continue the development of the United Nations computer-based information system on the question of Palestine (UNISPAL), in cooperation with relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information and United Nations organs, organizations, bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 1.1 Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 99

General Assembly resolutions

47/120 A	An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters
47/120 B	An Agenda for Peace
51/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States
52/12 A and B	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform

Security Council resolutions on mandates established by the Security Council relating to questions such as the former Yugoslavia, Georgia or Cyprus

Subprogramme 1.2 Assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 99

General Assembly resolutions

47/120 A	An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters
47/120 B	An Agenda for Peace
49/5	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

50/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
50/17	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
50/118	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community
51/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States
51/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community
52/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
52/5	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
52/7	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union
52/12 A and B	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
52/14	Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic
52/20	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity
52/22	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
52/204	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Security Council resolutions on mandates established by the Security Council relating to questions such as the former Yugoslavia, Georgia or Cyprus

Subprogramme 1.3 Electoral assistance

General Assembly resolution

52/129	Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

Subprogramme 1.4 Security Council affairs

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Articles 1, 7, 24, 28 and 29

Security Council resolutions pertaining to the establishment and mandates of the subsidiary organs created by the Council under the terms of Article 29 of the Charter of the United Nations

General Assembly resolutions

51/209	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
52/161	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Subprogramme 1.5 Decolonization

General Assembly resolutions

1514 (XV)	Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
1654 (XVI)	The situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
2621 (XXV)	Programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
51/209	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
52/78	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
52/161	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
52/220	Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 1.6 Question of Palestine

General Assembly resolutions

3376 (XXX)	Question of Palestine
32/40 B	Question of Palestine
34/65 D	Question of Palestine
38/58 B	Question of Palestine
46/74 B	Question of Palestine
52/49	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
52/50	Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

PROGRAMME 2. PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

2.1 Peacekeeping remains a dynamic and demanding activity of the United Nations. In spite of the recent decrease in the establishment of new operations and a decline in the number of peacekeepers deployed, it is essential for the United Nations to be able to respond to threats to international peace and security, including through mounting future peacekeeping operations in a range of different settings, when mandated. Every effort will be made to seek the early resolution of conflicts through pacific settlement of disputes by the parties concerned through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means in accordance with the Charter. However, peacekeeping will be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations to resolve conflicts and to maintain international peace and security and will be used to implement peace agreements agreed by the parties and to prevent conflict situations from escalating while ways to resolve the conflict peacefully are being pursued. The use of preventive deployment, when mandated, could be a factor contributing to international peace and security.

2.2 While the number of peacekeeping missions is likely to fluctuate in response to the international situation, one of the main purposes of the United Nations as derived from Article 1 of the Charter, the maintenance of international peace and security, will continue. Thus, the capacity of the United Nations to launch and support mandated peacekeeping operations in response to Security Council decisions will remain essential.

2.3 The Department of Peacekeeping Operations acts as the operational arm of the Secretary-General for United Nations field operations. The Department has primary responsibility for managing, directing and supporting all mandated peacekeeping operations and for providing administrative and logistics support to good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and humanitarian missions, as required.

2.4 The legislative authority for the programme derives from the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as General Assembly resolutions on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, the most recent of which is resolution 51/136; on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the most recent of which is resolution 51/218; and on assistance in mine clearance, the most recent of which is resolution 52/173. In respect of specific peacekeeping operations, legislative authority derives from specific decisions and resolutions of the Security Council related to particular operations.

2.5 The main characteristics of current and future operations may be identified as follows:

(a) Demanding mandates. The United Nations will continue to be responsible for operations in which it interposes troops to monitor a ceasefire and/or buffer zone. It will also continue to be called upon to deal with operations in which the United Nations may be involved in a wide range of military and civilian matters. Such operations could likely entail politically and militarily demanding tasks in view of the complex situations in which they are deployed;

(b) Multiple tasks. In recent experience, some peacekeeping operations have been mandated to include different combinations of the following tasks: monitoring of ceasefires and buffer zones, protecting humanitarian convoys, disarming and demobilizing ex-combatants, reforming military establishments, demining, establishing police forces, organizing or monitoring elections, monitoring human rights, promoting electoral and judicial reform, promoting aspects of civil administration and coordinating economic rehabilitation. The United Nations must maintain a capacity to discharge effectively these tasks as mandated in accordance with the Charter;

(c) Active collaboration. The United Nations reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, including where appropriate, to peacekeeping. The strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements, within their respective mandates, scope and composition, is, therefore, encouraged in order to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security. Furthermore, there is a need to enhance, as necessary, cooperation between peacekeeping operations and other related United Nations activities and to continue to explore ways and means of ensuring cooperation with other agencies of the United Nations system.

2.6 In order to be able to fulfil mandates, the programme will pursue as an overall objective the maintenance and enhancement of a flexible capacity to undertake peacekeeping operations. The programme must, therefore, include:

(a) The formulation of policies, procedures and operational concepts, and the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General thereon to the Security Council and the General Assembly, as mandated;

(b) The provision of executive direction on a daily basis to heads of mission and force commanders, as well as administrative and logistic support for peacekeeping and other operations in the field;

(c) The formulation of resource requirements for submission to the Controller;

(d) The provision of Headquarters support for peacekeeping operations, including through coordination of the efforts of relevant United Nations departments;

(e) The enhancement of contacts with Member States in order to encourage a wider group of Member States to develop, in cooperation with the Secretariat, arrangements for military, police and civilian personnel to participate in peacekeeping operations;

(f) The development of operational plans involving military, police and civilian components;

(g) The development, in the most transparent manner, of a rapidly deployable team composed of persons skilled in the essential military and civilian headquarters functions giving detailed consideration to its structure and mode of funding;

(h) The liquidation of operations after they terminate, which includes arrangements for the repatriation of personnel and equipment, disposal of assets, processing of contingent-owned equipment claims and the proper handling of contract and other disputes;

(i) The undertaking of generic contingency planning;

(j) The maintenance of continued contact with the parties to the conflict, members of the Security Council and troop contributors on the implementation of mandates;

(k) The maintenance of a capacity for innovation, conceptual development, training, the standardization of procedures and the ongoing development of tools for the management of peacekeeping assets, personnel and finances.

Subprogramme 2.1 Executive direction and policy

2.7 The objective of the subprogramme is to provide and establish overall authority for all policies and decisions at the programme level relating to the establishment and conduct of peacekeeping operations, as well as to be the focal point for contacts between the Secretariat and Member States, to provide advice to the Secretary-General on all the implications of United Nations resolutions, plans and proposals for operations in the field and to provide guidance and supervision on military matters to all the military officers of the Department.

2.8 Another objective will be to expedite, complement and amplify the information flows generated in the field to senior officers of the Department; to maintain around-the-clock communications links with all missions, solicit information from the field and summarize incoming information; to provide daily briefings to senior managers; and to maintain a crisis management and task force area capable of operating at very short notice.

2.9 A further objective will be to provide in-depth research and analysis of emerging policy questions in the field of peacekeeping and to coordinate at the programme level in the formulation of peacekeeping policies and procedures. Services would also be provided to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

2.10 The subprogramme is expected to maintain and, to the extent possible, enhance the professional capacity of the Organization in the provision of military advice for the planning and conduct of peacekeeping operations. The subprogramme is also expected to provide a forward-looking analysis of challenges that will continue to face peacekeepers for the foreseeable future.

2.11 The subprogramme is implemented by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, which consists of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Military Adviser's Office, the Policy and Analysis Unit, the Situation Centre and the Executive Office.

Subprogramme 2.2 Operations

2.12 The objective of this subprogramme is to ensure the overall success of an operation. It is implemented by the Office of Operations, which will deal with parties to conflicts, members of the Security Council and troop contributors, as well as relevant regional organizations as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates. It will also discharge the Secretary-General's reporting obligations to the relevant organs of the United Nations, including drafting of all reports on peacekeeping operations to the Security Council and, where appropriate, to the General Assembly.

2.13 The subprogramme will ensure a comprehensive approach, encompassing all factors relevant to its objective of ensuring the success of operations. It will be linked closely with the activities of subprogrammes 2.3, Field administration and logistics support, and 2.4, Planning, and will contribute on substantive issues to the activities related to field administration and logistics support. Its contribution is central to the activities of the policy and analysis and lessons-learned unit of subprogramme 2.1. The Office of Operations will coordinate closely with the other relevant departments in the Secretariat, as well as with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other agencies, as appropriate.

2.14 The subprogramme will provide sound and timely direction and management to existing operations, maintain technical preparedness to handle unforeseen surges in peacekeeping, which can result at any time from international crises, and develop and update standard procedures for operations.

Subprogramme 2.3 Field administration and logistics support

2.15 The objective of the subprogramme is to provide administrative and logistics support to peacekeeping operations, as well as to other United Nations mandated activities in the field. The subprogramme is implemented by the Field Administration and Logistics Division.

2.16 The subprogramme will focus greater efforts in the areas of programme planning, analysis and evaluation of mission financial management; enhance the calibre of staff provided to peacekeeping operations and improve timeliness of deployment of personnel; and enhance capacity by providing the necessary equipment, supplies and administrative infrastructures.

2.17 This subprogramme will enhance efficiency and coordination within the Department in areas of resources planning, financial management and liquidation support to field missions; in the timely identification of civilian personnel requirements for field missions, in the development and implementation of improved procurement practices; and in the enhancement of efficiency through standardization of specifications and procedures, development of guidelines and improving preparedness through training and more systematic assets management, subject to and in accordance with the mandates of the relevant intergovernmental bodies. High priority will be given to the review and verification of all claims relating to peacekeeping operations, including claims from troop-contributing countries, and the possible revisions of current arrangements for death and disability benefits.

Subprogramme 2.4 Planning

2.18 The main objective of this subprogramme will be to undertake mission planning and demining, including mine action coordination, as well as to provide advice and develop guidelines for the training and administration of civilian police, including the preparation of the concept of the civilian police component of peacekeeping operations. The subprogramme will be implemented by the Planning Division, which will prepare comprehensive operational plans and timetables for new and ongoing peacekeeping operations and other field missions, and propose revisions and modifications to plans, as required; determine, at the programme level, and as necessary with other entities of the United Nations system, the detailed requirements of new peacekeeping operations and other field missions; and examine the implications of changes in the mandates of existing operations in terms of personnel, equipment and cost. It will analyse and assess information gathered from ongoing and closed missions in order to draw lessons for future and ongoing operations and will maintain and strengthen the standby arrangements system with Governments for the supply of peacekeeping personnel, equipment, and other services.

2.19 Another objective of the subprogramme will be to provide advice and to develop guidelines for the employment, conditions of service, training and administration of civilian police in peacekeeping operations; to prepare the concept of operations for the civilian police component of operations; and to maintain liaison with Permanent Missions on agreements with Governments concerning the provision of police for service with the United Nations. In undertaking activities related to medical support, the subprogramme will provide advice on all medical matters related to peacekeeping operations, provide medical support during a mission's start-up phase and during its liquidation and provide a temporary Force Medical Officer and/or Special Medical Adviser in cases of unforeseen events and difficulties in a mission area. It will perform medical reconnaissance, on the basis of which it will provide guidance to potential troop contributors on specific health threats to be expected in the area of operations. It will verify the need for all requests from the field for procurement of medical supplies and medical equipment.

2.20 A further objective of the subprogramme will be to advise on all training matters related to peacekeeping operations; to prepare guidelines, manuals and other training materials to assist Member States in preparing their civilian, police and military personnel for peacekeeping operations in a standardized and cost-effective manner; to help Member States (through the United Nations training assistance team programme) with the organization, assessment and conduct of peacekeeping training; and to train personnel before deployment to a peacekeeping operation. All of the activities should be carried out bearing in mind the linguistic and cultural diversity of the countries concerned.

2.21 This subprogramme will further develop the standby arrangements system and the recently initiated lessons-learned activities. It will develop and make available a standby database of personnel, including police officers from contributing Member States ready for immediate deployment; standardize specific training procedures as pre-deployment requisites; standardize operational procedures for United Nations civilian police in all missions; develop the capacity to assist in lessons-learned in regard to civilian police matters; and have experienced staff work together with mission planning and advise on matters related to United Nations civilian police in the development of mission concepts. It will refine and develop the coordination role of United Nations Headquarters in the conduct of peacekeeping training. The subprogramme will provide in three broad areas a full range of strategic guidance, doctrine and common standards that will enhance the cohesion and effectiveness of training; training material and teaching aids to support national training programmes; and expert training assistance through the development of regional pools of trained instructors.

2.22 Another objective of the subprogramme will be to ensure an effective, proactive and coordinated United Nations response throughout the Organization's humanitarian, social and economic assistance activities to mine infestation. This will be achieved through, inter alia, the establishment of the mine action service as the focal point within the United Nations system for mine-related activities, namely, facilitation of a coherent and constructive dialogue between the United Nations and relevant actors on mine clearance, awareness and assistance; the collection, analysis and dissemination, through transparent and recognized sources, of mine-related information, including information on technology for mine clearance; the maintenance and promotion of technical and safety standards; advocacy to promote awareness of the serious threat that the indiscriminate use of landmines constitutes to the safety, health and lives of the local population; and the development and implementation of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 2.1 Executive direction and policy

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 99

General Assembly resolutions

49/233	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations
51/136	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
51/218	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations
52/173	Assistance in mine clearance

Subprogramme 2.2 Operations

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 99

General Assembly resolutions

51/136	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
51/218	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations
51/239 A and B	Support account for peacekeeping operations

Subprogramme 2.3 Field administration and logistics support

General Assembly resolutions

51/136	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
51/218	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations
50/239 A and B	Support account for peacekeeping operations

Subprogramme 2.4 Planning

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 99

General Assembly resolutions

51/136	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
51/218	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations
52/173	Assistance in mine clearance

PROGRAMME 3. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

3.1 The overall objective of programme 3, Outer space affairs, is to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by assisting or collaborating with Member States, in particular developing countries, organizations within the United Nations system, national and international space-related organizations and the private sector as appropriate in the areas of space science and technology, with emphasis on the application of space technology for sustainable development.

3.2 The Office for Outer Space Affairs will be responsible for the implementation of this programme and the achievement of its objectives. The corresponding programme under the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, was programme 8, Peaceful uses of outer space.

3.3 The mandate of the programme lies in the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretariat by the General Assembly, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies.

3.4 The broad approach and direction to be followed under this programme will be as follows:

(a) The provision of parliamentary services to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which serves as a focal point for international cooperation in space activities, its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies, and the Working Group of the Whole on the space-related agenda items of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly;

(b) The provision of assistance to the legislative bodies in their role as a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, through the promotion of the applications of space technology for economic and social development and management of the environment;

(c) The provision of assistance in the formulation and adoption of legal instruments and standards relating to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and consideration of legal implications of space activities;

(d) The promotion of coordination and cooperation in space activities within the United Nations system and provision of secretariat services to the annual Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities;

(e) The planning and implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including conducting technical assistance and capacity-building activities;

(f) The preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), to be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations, and the provision of parliamentary services to the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee when acting as the Preparatory and Advisory Committees for UNISPACE III, as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations conferences on the

exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and the space-related recommendations of other recent United Nations conferences;

(g) The maintenance, on behalf of the Secretary-General, of the United Nations public register of information furnished in accordance with article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and the dissemination of such information to Member States;

(h) The analysis of space-related issues and emerging trends, including the relationships between space science and technology and socio-economic development at the national, regional and global levels and the protection of the space environment;

(i) The collection and dissemination of space-related information.

Subprogramme 3.1 Outer space affairs

3.5 A major objective of the subprogramme will be to provide Member States and space-related governmental and non-governmental organizations with information, expertise and other requirements necessary for expanding international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and contributing to the development of international space law. This will enhance international cooperation in the application of space technology for peaceful purposes and in scientific space research and ensure that the benefits of space activities are available to all countries.

3.6 A second major objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the national and regional capacities of developing countries in the applications of space technology and to enhance cooperation between developed and developing countries in space science and technology through the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the mandate of which was expanded by the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Secretariat, in close collaboration with Member States and with other international organizations, will continue to undertake training and fellowship programmes and to provide technical advisory services in the planning, implementation and evaluation of technical assistance projects. Other major activities will include implementation of follow-up projects to the activities of the subprogramme and pilot projects in various areas such as remote sensing, satellite communication, satellite meteorology and basic space science, and the provision of technical assistance to the regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated with the United Nations.

3.7 Furthermore, in accordance with the recommendations of UNISPACE II, capacity and regional cooperation on space science and technology should be promoted through the establishment and consolidation of regional centres for space and technology education affiliated with the United Nations, including those which have been created or those in an advance process of creation.

3.8 A third objective of the subprogramme will be to deepen the understanding of the international community of ongoing space activities and of the role that space technology can play in economic and social development by promoting the establishment of global databases to enhance policy-planning capacities. To that end, the Secretariat will continue to maintain and improve the International Space Information System (ISIS) by issuing various space-related publications and by utilizing computer technology to disseminate information. ISIS will provide information on the results of the follow-up and pilot projects

mentioned above and other activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, as well as other space programmes, in accordance with existing intergovernmental agreements.

3.9 A fourth objective of the subprogramme will be to increase the use of space technology within the Organization through the provision of required expertise in determining the benefits of such technology for conducting activities in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. It will therefore aim further to promote cooperation and coordination among organizations within the United Nations system in various space activities and to implement space-related recommendations of recent United Nations conferences.

3.10 Implementation of the activities of the subprogramme is expected to result in:

(a) Enhanced international cooperation in space activities at the global, regional and local levels;

(b) The formulation and adoption by Member States of legal instruments and standards governing space and space activities;

(c) Improving the indigenous capabilities among Member States for utilizing space technology for economic and social development;

(d) Improved capabilities for the study and analysis of measures for expanding international cooperation in space activities, in particular through the exchange of space-related information.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

1472 (XIV)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
1721 (XVI)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
2453 (XXIII)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3235 (XXIX)	Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space
37/90	Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
45/72	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
48/39	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
49/34	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, including the question of the review of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
50/27	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

51/123	**International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space**
52/56	**International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space**

PROGRAMME 4. LEGAL AFFAIRS

4.1 The overall objectives of this programme are to provide a unified central legal service for the Secretariat and the principal and other organs of the United Nations, to contribute to the progressive development and codification of international public and trade law, to promote the strengthening and development as well as the effective implementation of the international legal order for the seas and oceans, to register and publish treaties, and to perform the depositary functions of the Secretary-General. The Office of Legal Affairs seeks to achieve this through the provision of legal services on questions of international and national, public, private, procedural and administrative law, by providing substantive secretariat functions to United Nations bodies and by contributing to the understanding, acceptance and consistent application of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related implementing Agreements, through the expeditious processing and publication of treaty-related actions and treaties registered and deposited, and by providing assistance to Member States in matters related to treaty law.

4.2 The Office of Legal Affairs is responsible for the implementation of this programme and for the achievement of its objectives.

4.3 The mandate for the programme derives from the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Secretary-General and other units of the Secretariat and the principal decision-making organs of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

4.4 The broad approaches and direction to be followed under this programme will be as follows:

(a) Ensuring the rule of law in and through the United Nations and the proper and orderly conduct of business by its organs;

(b) The provision of legal services to and liaison between Headquarters and United Nations organs, United Nations offices and field and peacekeeping missions, including maintaining respect for privileges and immunities and the legal status of the Organization;

(c) The discharge of the Secretary-General's responsibilities under the Statute of the International Court of Justice, except those of a budgetary nature;

(d) The provision of legal assistance and advice to Secretariat staff worldwide relating to the provision of goods, services and facilities to the Organization and its missions, and the resolution of legal disputes involving the Organization, including the representation of the Secretary-General in judicial proceedings, negotiations or other procedures;

(e) The provision of secretariat services for the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, the International Law Commission, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and other committees or conferences dealing with legal matters;

(f) The preparation of publications on legal matters and studies to assist the progressive development and codification of international law and the law of international trade;

(g) The provision of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law and the law of international trade;

(h) The provision of information, analysis, advice and assistance to States on law of the sea and ocean affairs, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(i) The monitoring, review and analysis of and reporting on developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs, including persistent and emerging issues, as well as the formulation of recommendations thereon;

(j) The provision of substantive servicing of the relevant institutions and intergovernmental bodies as mandated by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the Secretary-General's responsibilities with respect to dispute settlement;

(k) The strengthening and expansion of cooperation and coordination among relevant international organizations in the field of the law of the sea and ocean affairs;

(l) The discharge of the Secretariat's responsibilities under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations on the registration and publication of treaties, including through the adoption of electronic publishing techniques, and the Secretary-General's responsibilities as the depositary for multilateral conventions.

4.5 During the plan period, this programme will provide legal advice and services of great importance in connection with a wide range of questions dealt with by the decision-making organs of the United Nations and its Member States. It will strengthen respect within the United Nations for the rule of law in international relations, in particular, observance of the Charter and the resolutions, decisions, rules, regulations and treaties emanating from the Organization.

Subprogramme 4.1 Overall direction, management and coordination of legal advice and services to the United Nations as a whole

4.6 The main objective of this subprogramme is to assist the principal organs of the United Nations by providing legal advice. This applies in particular to the interpretation of the Charter, resolutions and regulations of the United Nations, treaties and questions of public international law. Peacekeeping and other operations, missions and good-offices will present this subprogramme with legal questions involving the use of force, privileges and immunities, and third-party liability. One specific objective for the plan period is to sustain the evolution of legal arrangements in support of the United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security. This subprogramme is implemented by the Office of the Legal Counsel as well as in regard to economic and social activities.

4.7 A further objective of this subprogramme is to prepare the Repertory of Practice of the United Nations Organs, a record of the practice of the General Assembly in procedural matters.

4.8 Another objective of this subprogramme is to assist the meetings of principal organs of the United Nations and the cycle of conferences by providing legal services, including advice on constitutional and procedural and credentials matters. A related objective is the preparation of draft rules of procedure and the assessment of questions relating to representation of States to the United Nations.

4.9 A further objective of this subprogramme is to ensure that as subsidiary organs of the United Nations, the ad hoc International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda operate in accordance with United Nations rules, regulations and policies, and that as judicial organs they act independently of States and the Security Council. In the framework of this subprogramme, the Office of Legal Affairs advises the Security Council on legal aspects of the activities of the Tribunals and advises the Tribunals on their relationship with third States, relevant peacekeeping operations and the host countries.

4.10 The activities and assistance delivered by the United Nations in the territories of Member States require attention to questions concerning the privileges and immunities of the Organization and relations with host Governments. An important objective is the negotiation and finalization of legal arrangements to regulate the status and activities of United Nations offices. The negotiation, where required, of status-of-forces agreements between the United Nations and the host Governments in connection with the activities of United Nations peacekeeping operations will also form an important objective of this subprogramme. In this regard, due consideration should be given to the obligation of United Nations officials in the conduct of their duties to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization.

4.11 It is anticipated that during the plan period this subprogramme will enhance the effectiveness of the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations and of peacekeeping and other missions by ensuring that their work is carried out in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, other relevant international agreements and rules, resolutions and decisions of competent decision-making organs of the United Nations.

Subprogramme 4.2 General legal services to United Nations organs and programmes

4.12 A major objective of this subprogramme is to assist the Organization (Headquarters, the regional commissions, other United Nations offices away from Headquarters and peacekeeping and other missions) and other United Nations organizations in day-to-day administration of their mandates and programmes through the provision of legal services. These involve (a) participation in meetings of secretariat bodies, such as the Committee on Contracts, the Staff Management Coordination Committee, the Property Survey Board, the Claims Board and so on; and (b) interpretation of certain Articles of the Charter, General Assembly resolutions and decisions, the regulations, rules and other administrative issuances of the Organization and the mandates of programmes and activities in which United Nations organs and bodies are engaged. This subprogramme is implemented by the General Legal Division of the Office of Legal Affairs.

4.13 Other important objectives of this subprogramme are to provide legal services and support for (a) the peacekeeping operations of the Organization in the contracting for air, land and sea transportation, for rations and logistical support and for personnel and equipment and resolution of related disputes; (b) the Organization's expanded contracting requirements and the reform of procurement; and (c) the separately funded programmes, funds and offices of the United Nations in connection with the negotiation of new agreements for the establishment of programmes of cooperation for development, as well as for the development of new institutional modalities for operational activities.

4.14 Additional objectives of this subprogramme are to provide legal services and support for the regulations, rules and other administrative issuances of the Organization and the revisions to the system of personnel appraisal. One specific objective of this subprogramme is to provide representation of the Secretary-General before the Administrative Tribunal and representation of the Organization before other judicial and arbitral bodies.

4.15 The subprogramme is expected to protect the legal rights of the Organization and to minimize and resolve legal disputes and other legal difficulties that arise with regard to the operations of the Organization and to assist with the development and implementation of the Organization's administrative law consistent with the needs and interests of the Organization.

Subprogramme 4.3 Progressive development and codification of international law

4.16 The objectives of the subprogramme are (a) to promote the acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law and to encourage the progressive development and codification of international law; and (b) to encourage the dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. The subprogramme is implemented by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs.

4.17 The first objective requires providing United Nations bodies dealing with international law, including the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, the International Law Commission, codification conferences and special committees established on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee with substantive support, including, inter alia, the conduct of research on topics of international law, the compiling of background documentation, the preparation of draft reports of a substantive nature of the bodies concerned, as well as assistance in the conduct of proceedings and the drafting of resolutions, decisions, amendments, proposals and so on.

4.18 In connection with the first objective, the Division has responsibility for undertaking further work to implement General Assembly resolutions 49/60 and 50/53 on the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate Terrorism and thus to follow up closely the implementation of paragraph 10 of the Declaration and to submit annual reports thereon. The practical measures to be taken by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Declaration are a collection of data on the status and implementation of existing agreements, including information on incidents caused by international terrorism; a compendium of national laws and regulations; an analytical review of existing international legal instruments to assist States in identifying aspects that could be addressed to develop further a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism; and a review of existing possibilities within the United Nations system for assisting States in organizing workshops and training courses in combating crimes of international terrorism.

4.19 The second objective requires monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law and ensuring the preparation and issuance of legal publications in the official languages of the United Nations, including the Yearbook of the International Law Commission, the United Nations Juridical Yearbook, the Legislative Series and the Reports of International Arbitral Awards.

4.20 It is expected that a number of drafts will be placed before the General Assembly as a result of the activities of the subsidiary legal bodies referred to above and that those drafts will serve as a basis for the elaboration by the General Assembly (Sixth Committee) of conventions, declarations, resolutions or guidelines on legal topics. The publications listed above will be issued on a yearly basis or at intervals depending on the availability of material. Assistance in the form of fellowships, seminars and United Nations legal publications will be provided, in particular to developing countries.

Subprogramme 4.4 Law of the sea and ocean affairs

4.21 The mandate for this subprogramme lies in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the implementing Agreements, as well as in decisions taken by meetings of States parties to the Convention and by the General Assembly, in particular its resolution 49/28 of 6 December 1994 adopted upon the entry into force of the Convention. This subprogramme is to be implemented by the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

4.22 The first objective of the subprogramme is to promote the universal acceptance of the Convention and its uniform and consistent application. To that end, information, analysis and advice will be provided on the Convention and the Agreements, their status and state practice relating thereto.

4.23 A second objective is to assist States and international organizations in the development of legal instruments in the field of law of the sea and ocean affairs in harmony with the provisions of the Convention.

4.24 A third objective is to assist in the effective functioning of the treaty system of institutions. This will be accomplished by providing servicing to meetings of States parties and to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, and by providing legal assistance to the International Seabed Authority. Assistance will also be provided to the dispute-settlement mechanisms set forth by the Convention, including the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

4.25 A fourth objective is to assist Member States in identifying emerging aspects of marine affairs within the framework of the Convention, by analysing areas requiring action, organizing groups of experts for the purpose of formulating appropriate responses to emerging needs and servicing multilateral consultations and negotiations so as to contribute to the progressive development and codification of international law.

4.26 A fifth objective is to assist Member States in their efforts to derive practical benefits from the international legal regime for the oceans. In this area, emphasis will be given to developing and strengthening the capabilities of States, including institutional infrastructure, as well as human, technical and financial resources.

4.27 Finally, a sixth objective is to respond to the expressed need of the international community for the annual consideration, review and evaluation of continuing developments related to the law of the sea and ocean affairs in the General Assembly through the monitoring and analysis of and reporting on developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs, including legal, political, economic, technological and scientific developments.

4.28 This subprogramme is expected to contribute to a wider acceptance of the Convention, a higher degree of uniformity and consistency in its application and its more effective implementation, as well as to enhanced capabilities of States to derive the fullest benefits under the comprehensive international legal regime for the seas and oceans.

Subprogramme 4.5 Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade

4.29 A major objective of this subprogramme is to provide Governments and legislators with universally acceptable, modern and harmonized treaties and model laws in areas where harmonization of commercial law is desirable and feasible, and also to provide commercial parties with non-legislative texts (e.g. model clauses, rules and legal guides) to assist them in implementing international transactions. This subprogramme is implemented by the International Trade Law Branch.

4.30 A further major objective is to meet the increased demand of Governments for training and technical assistance regarding enactment of legal texts of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (e.g. on settlement of disputes, public procurement, electronic data interchange, international payments) by assisting in preparation of legislation, briefing officials, conducting seminars and assisting Governments, professional associations and academic institutions, in particular in developing countries and countries in transition, to improve the teaching of international trade law (e.g. by co-sponsoring educational events and helping to develop teaching programmes).

4.31 Another objective is to provide training and assistance, in conjunction with regional organizations, to foster regional harmonization of trade laws on the basis of universal texts. A further objective is to monitor the work of other international organizations active in international trade law so as to avoid duplication in their activities and to prevent inconsistencies in the results of their work. A complementary objective is to provide users of texts of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with information on the judicial and arbitral application and interpretation of those texts. Such information is made available, in all United Nations languages, in the form of abstracts of court decisions and arbitral awards.

4.32 This subprogramme is expected to facilitate the globalization of commerce and finance, with their increasingly complex cross-border transactions, by reducing legal obstacles posed by inadequate and disparate laws.

Subprogramme 4.6 Custody, registration and publication of treaties

4.33 The recent expansion of the Organization's membership and the rapid multiplication of international legislative activity has resulted in the increase in the nature, quantity and complexity of the tasks performed by this subprogramme. With a view to dealing effectively with the accumulated and current workload and pursuant to a General Assembly mandate, a major computerization programme is under way. This subprogramme is implemented by the Treaty Section.

4.34 The key objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To perform the depositary functions of the Secretary-General (for over 440 multilateral treaties) and the registration functions of the Secretariat and also to facilitate the provision of timely and accurate information relating to the agreements registered with the Secretariat (over 40,000 at the end of 1995);

(b) To provide assistance and advice to Member States, United Nations bodies and other entities on the technical aspects of treaty making and on treaty law.

4.35 In furthering these objectives, it is essential to complete the computerization programme and in particular:

(a) To develop a comprehensive electronic database containing all depositary and registration information and disseminate electronically treaty- and treaty law-related information from the database, including on-line access;

(b) To implement an electronic workflow system employing desktop publishing to address the existing printing backlog;

(c) Through further training, to develop a highly motivated, competent and professional work force and to explore innovative approaches such as off-site working, machine-aided electronic translation and the listing of treaties under different headings.

4.36 This subprogramme is expected to result in the expeditious processing and publication, including by electronic means, of treaty-related actions and treaties registered and deposited.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 4.1 Overall direction, management and coordination of legal advice and services to the United Nations as a whole

General Assembly resolution

13 (I)	Organization of the Secretariat

Subprogramme 4.2 General legal services to United Nations organs and programmes

General Assembly resolutions

13 (I)	Organization of the Secretariat
351 (IV)	Establishment of a United Nations Administrative Tribunal
782 B (VIII)	Personnel policy of the United Nations: amendment to the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal
956 (X)	Procedure for the review of United Nations Administrative Tribunal judgements: amendments to the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal

Subprogramme 4.3 Progressive development and codification of international law

General Assembly resolutions

174 (II)	Establishment of an International Law Commission
487 (V)	Ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available

602 (VI)	Ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available
686 (VII)	Ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available
1816 (XVII)	Technical assistance to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law
1968 (XVIII)	Technical assistance to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law
2099 (XX)	Technical assistance to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law
3006 (XXVII)	*United Nations Juridical Yearbook*
50/43	United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
50/44	United Nations Decade of International Law
50/45	Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-seventh session

Subprogramme 4.4 Law of the sea and ocean affairs

General Assembly resolutions

50/23	Law of the sea
50/24	Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
50/25	Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, and fisheries by-catch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources

Subprogramme 4.5 Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade

General Assembly resolutions

2205 (XXI)	Establishment of UNCITRAL
50/47	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-eighth session

Subprogramme 4.6 Custody, registration and publication of treaties

Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations

General Assembly resolutions

23 (I)	Registration of treaties and international agreements
24 (I)	Transfer of certain functions, activities and assets of the League of Nations
97 (I)	Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements: Regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations
364 (IV)	Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements
482 (V)	Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements
33/141	Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations

PROGRAMME 6. AFRICA: NEW AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

6.1 The general orientation of the programme is to mobilize the support and galvanize the efforts of the international community for African development; to ensure that African development remains one of the priorities of the international community; to promote a supportive framework for African development efforts; and to promote a coordinated and effective response by the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels in support of African development.

6.2 The programme was established out of the concern of the international community over the daunting and persistent economic and social crisis facing the African continent since the 1980s. At the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, solely devoted to Africa's critical economic and social situation, the international community launched the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. Following the final review of that programme in 1991, the international community unanimously adopted the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s as a successor political compact between Africa and the international community. The mid-term review of the New Agenda was carried out by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session. In 1990, the Assembly identified African economic recovery and development as a top priority of the United Nations in the 1990s and requested the establishment of a System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

6.3 The System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development was launched in 1992 and subsequently revised in 1994. In 1997 it was replaced by the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which is aimed at strengthening the United Nations system-wide coordination and collaborative approaches to African development, including through creating synergy among the organizations of the system operating in Africa, including the Bretton Woods institutions. The Special Initiative, designed as a system-wide partnership framework for the mobilization of support for the region, will further incorporate the development priorities in accordance with priorities set by national Governments.

6.4 The document entitled "Relaunching Africa's economic and social development: the Cairo Agenda for Action", which the General Assembly took note of in its resolution 50/160, not only focused on what Africa could do for itself, but also reaffirmed the contribution the international community could make to Africa's recovery and development.

6.5 The Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in 1993, stressed the ownership of African countries in their nation-building efforts, renewed the commitment of the international community to African development and provided an impetus for increased cooperation between Africa and Asia. The Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development is scheduled for October 1998, and will aim at furthering African development on the basis of the principle of ownership and partnership, focusing on such areas as education and health care, the empowerment of women and agricultural and private sector development, some of which are also priority areas of the New Agenda. In its resolution 51/32 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the General Assembly took note of the outcome of the High-level Seminar on African Development, held at Tokyo on 27 and 28 August 1996.

6.6 At the request of the Security Council, the Secretary-General submitted, in April 1998, a report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318), in which he made a wide range of recommendations aimed at responding to situations of conflict and promoting durable peace and sustainable development. In its resolution 1170 (1998), the Security Council stressed, inter alia, that the challenges in Africa demanded a comprehensive response and, in that context, expressed the hope that the bodies of the United Nations and concerned organizations, as well as Member States, would consider the report and its recommendations and take action as they deemed appropriate within their respective areas of competence. At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly will review the recommendations contained in the report and the Economic and Social Council will review their implementation at its substantive session of 1999.

6.7 The programme will be under the joint responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information.

6.8 It is anticipated that by the end of the period covered by the plan the programme will have contributed significantly to the growth and economic recovery of African countries.

Subprogramme 6.1 Mobilization of international support and global coordination

6.9 The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will play a catalytic role in mobilizing the international community's support for concerted action aimed at achieving African development as well as promoting a supportive framework for Africa's efforts. The subprogramme will provide support to the Secretary-General in his global advocacy and policy initiatives aimed at promoting African development.

6.10 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the inclusion of the priorities of the New Agenda in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/32 in major international development policies and strategies and to facilitate the intergovernmental process dealing with African development;

(b) To encourage the international community, including Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take appropriate and concrete measures to implement the commitments contained in the New Agenda and the Tokyo Declaration;

(c) To promote cooperation between Africa and other regions of the world within the framework of the New Agenda and the Tokyo Declaration;

(d) To promote the consideration of critical and emerging issues that may affect Africa's development;

(e) To contribute to the coordination of responses of the United Nations system at the policy level in the context of the implementation of various initiatives and programmes on Africa;

(f) To ensure the monitoring of the implementation of various recommendations on Africa and assist in the follow-up and harmonization of measures and approved multilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives on Africa;

(g) To strengthen cooperation with organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donor agencies in mobilizing sufficient resources.

Subprogramme 6.2 Monitoring, assessment, facilitation and follow-up to the implementation of action programmes for African development

6.11 The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and within the framework of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, will focus on (a) facilitating the translation of the objectives of the New Agenda into concrete coordinated actions of the United Nations system at the national and regional levels; (b) promoting the necessary partnership for a positive country and international response; and (c) implementing an effective communication and outreach strategy for enhanced information flow and the dissemination of best practices. The subprogramme will also draw from the analytical capabilities of ECA substantive divisions as well as its subregional development centres.

6.12 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To strengthen coordination and harmonization of the contribution of the various United Nations agencies at the regional level in the context of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the implementation of the New Agenda through the consolidation of the lead and collaborative agency arrangements, backstopping technical cluster meetings and organizing consultative meetings with United Nations country teams;

(b) To contribute to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990s in facilitating country implementation of the programme by contributing to the preparation of the national needs assessment, country strategy notes, action plans and the United Nations development assistance frameworks;

(c) To promote Governments' ownership and active leadership in programme formulation and implementation;

(d) To contribute to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s in formulating technical assistance programmes and in the mobilization of necessary resources;

(e) To promote the dissemination within the region of information on the implementation of the New Agenda through the Special Initiative;

(f) To monitor, assess, evaluate and report on the implementation of the New Agenda, the Special Initiative and other special programmes for or relevant to African development;

(g) To support the promotion of South-South cooperation.

Subprogramme 6.3 The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa

6.13 The main focus of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Department of Public Information, is to raise global awareness of Africa's critical economic situation and of the actions taken by Africa and the international community to promote the economic recovery and sustainable development of the continent.

6.14 More specifically, the objectives are:

(a) To promote awareness in Africa and in the international community of the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa, and of the domestic and international efforts required for recovery and development, through wide dissemination of the periodical Africa Recovery and various ad hoc publications, such as briefing papers and press releases, as well as the use of other means and strategies of communications for better reach; to the general public and to target groups such as parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and academic institutions, as well as through outreach to the African and international mass media;

(b) To promote awareness of, and support for, the major international and African initiatives and events that will contribute to Africa's economic and social progress, with special emphasis on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as well as the efforts undertaken by African countries and their development partners to promote economic and social development;

(c) To highlight progress and challenges in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in the context of its final review and appraisal by the General Assembly in 2002;

(d) To promote and strengthen subregional and regional cooperation and economic integration through the dissemination of information on the actions being taken by Africa and the international community to enhance such cooperation and integration.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 6.1 Mobilization of international support and global coordination

General Assembly resolutions

S-13/2	United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990
46/151	Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990
47/214	Programme planning
48/214	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

49/142	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
50/160	Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
51/32	Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Security Council resolution

1170 (1998)

Subprogramme 6.2 Monitoring, assessment, facilitation and follow-up to the implementation of action programmes for African development

General Assembly resolutions

S-13/2	United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990
46/151	Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990
47/214	Programme planning
48/214	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
49/142	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
50/160	Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
51/32	Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Economic and Social Council resolution

1994/38	Effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Subprogramme 6.3 The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa

General Assembly resolutions

S-13/2	United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990
46/151	Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990

48/214	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
49/142	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
50/160	Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
51/32	Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

PROGRAMME 9. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

9.1 The mandates for the programme flow from the role and responsibilities assigned to the secretariat of UNCTAD by the General Assembly, the quadrennial United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic and Social Council and the Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies. Principal mandates are set out in General Assembly resolutions 1995 (XIX), by which UNCTAD was established, and 50/95 on international trade and development, the 1990 Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the Cartagena Commitment, adopted at the eighth session of UNCTAD, in 1992, and, in particular, the Midrand Declaration and "A Partnership for Growth and Development", adopted at the ninth session of UNCTAD, in May 1996 (A/51/308, annex).

9.2 The programme will be implemented by UNCTAD and ITC. The Centre's original mandate derives from General Assembly resolution 2297 (XXII). In its resolution 1819 (LV), the Economic and Social Council affirmed the role of ITC as the focal point for United Nations technical cooperation activities in trade promotion. ITC receives policy guidance from its parent bodies, UNCTAD/WTO, and general direction from the annual meetings of the Joint Advisory Group, an intergovernmental body open to States members of UNCTAD and WTO.

9.3 At the ninth session of UNCTAD, Governments recognized that development had evolved from a narrow focus on economic growth and capital accumulation to a multidimensional process, with the ultimate goal of bettering the human condition. To confront growing disparities between and within nations and the concerns relating to the integration of environment and development, a global partnership for sustainable development was called for, as no nation could achieve those aims on its own. The twin processes of globalization of production and liberalization of trade offered opportunities for all countries and enabled developing countries to play a more active role in the world economy. At the same time, those processes had increased the complexity and challenges involved in interdependence, increasing the risks of instability and marginalization.

9.4 A particular challenge for the international community is the integration of developing countries into the global economy. Many of these countries, particularly in Africa, risk being left behind and marginalized in world trade, investment, commodities and capital markets. Ongoing intensive efforts are needed to help developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to benefit from the process of global trade liberalization.

9.5 At its ninth session, UNCTAD, as part of the United Nations system and a contributor to its revitalization, has adopted far-reaching reforms, as embodied in the Midrand Declaration and "A Partnership for Growth and Development", adopted by consensus at that session of the Conference, which encompass its programme of work, its intergovernmental machinery and the reform of its secretariat, including its complementarity with WTO, inter alia, by making its analysis of trade and development available to WTO, and its cooperation with UNIDO and relevant organizations. In consequence, UNCTAD is adapting itself to new economic and institutional modalities created by the process of globalization, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and agreements, and the creation of WTO.

9.6 UNCTAD will continue its role as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

9.7 UNCTAD will deal with the problems of the least developed countries, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, the empowerment of women and economic cooperation among developing countries in a cross-cutting manner. While concentrating on its main activities and objectives, UNCTAD will pay due attention to the outcome of global conferences.

9.8 UNCTAD will carry out its mandates through analytical work, research to support policy dialogue and technical cooperation. Its research and analytical work are meant to facilitate policy formulation within member States as they strive for development. Technical support and cooperation are provided in order to yield concrete results, with special attention being devoted to human resource development and institution-building designed to contribute better to the efforts of recipient countries to create an overall enabling environment at a policy and institutional level. In enhancing that assistance, UNCTAD will strengthen its cooperation and coordination with WTO, ITC, other international organizations, and donor agencies. In seeking to enhance "A Partnership for Growth and Development", UNCTAD will also involve civil society in order to contribute better to creating an enabling environment for the private/business sector.

9.9 For its part, ITC will complement the research, policy and normative work of its parent bodies, UNCTAD and WTO, by concentrating on operational issues related to the provision of information, product and market development and institutional development and support services for trade promotion, export development and international purchasing and supply management.

9.10 In line with "A Partnership for Growth and Development", it is expected that, by the end of the period covered by the plan, the programme will have accomplished the following:

(a) Enhanced the ability of developing countries to expand and diversify their trade, to meet their multilateral obligations, to understand and take advantage of their rights in the multilateral trading system and to pursue their development objectives;

(b) Enhanced the ability of developing countries to attract foreign investment and develop enterprise capabilities and a technological base to strengthen their production and export capacity;

(c) Increased capacities of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to reap the benefits of globalization;

(d) Generated the trade-supporting services in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the countries with economies in transition, especially for informal sectors and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises;

(e) Contributed to policy formulation, in particular, creating an overall enabling environment at a policy and institutional level for developed countries, and in particular the least developed countries, through technical support and cooperation;

(f) Contributed to policy formulation, at both the national and international levels, in the areas addressed by the Trade and Development Board and its various commissions;

(g) Increased capacities of enterprises in adapting their products and their marketing approaches in the post-Uruguay Round era.

9.11 UNCTAD will be responsible for subprogrammes 1 to 5, while ITC will be responsible for subprogrammes 6 and 7.

Subprogramme 9.1 Globalization and development

9.12 The focus of the subprogramme, for which the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies is responsible, is to facilitate the process through which developing countries utilize the benefits of globalization to accelerate the attainment of the objective of sustainable development.

9.13 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To contribute to the understanding of the evolution and interaction of the elements for sustainable development in an increasingly globalizing world economy, tracking changes in those interactions and evaluating their impact on the development process, seeking new opportunities for further development resulting from globalization and liberalization, and providing policy approaches and actions to help developing countries integrate into the world economy and achieve sustainable development;

(b) To examine specific development challenges regarding effective participation in international trade and investment, drawing out the lessons that may be of value to developing countries, countries in transition, and in particular the least developed countries. This examination of development challenges will integrate the important development lessons learned about debt management problems, for which continued support is sought from the technical cooperation programme;

(c) To examine successful development experiences, drawing out lessons that may be of value to other countries, in particular the least developed, identifying suitable options in supporting cooperation among developing countries, in partnership with contributing countries and institutions, in this regard;

(d) To contribute towards the effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

(e) To continue the work of UNCTAD, in accordance with its mandate, in assisting the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy making and management pertaining to international trade, investment and related services. In this regard, UNCTAD should take into account the work done by other international organizations in order to enhance synergies, avoid duplication and coordinate related activities.

Subprogramme 9.2 Investment, enterprise development and technology

9.14 The focus of this subprogramme, which will be implemented by the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise, is on investment, enterprise development and the participation of enterprises in the global economy and issues related to technology for development in order to promote policy dialogue among development actors for the purpose of assessing the challenges and opportunities for enterprise development arising from the emerging economic conditions, including the post-Uruguay Round environment.

9.15 In the area of investment the objectives are:

(a) To improve general understanding of trends and changes in foreign direct investment flows and related policies, the interrelationships between foreign direct investment, trade, technology and development, and issues related to transnational corporations of all sizes and their contribution to development;

(b) To identify and analyse implications for development of issues relevant to a possible multilateral framework on investment, beginning with an examination and review of existing agreements, taking into account the interests of developing countries and bearing in mind the work undertaken by other organizations;

(c) To familiarize Governments and the international private sector with an individual country's investment environments and policies by continuing investment policy reviews with member countries that so desire;

(d) To enhance the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve their overall investment climate, to obtain relevant information and to formulate policies to attract and benefit from foreign direct investment;

(e) To assist countries, at their request, in the area of accounting standards and accounting education and related activities;

(f) To promote opportunities for foreign direct investment in host countries by facilitating the exchange of experiences on investment promotion and the benefits of foreign direct investment;

(g) To promote investment from developed to developing countries and among developing countries;

(h) To facilitate, consistent with available resources, the holding of a pilot seminar on the mobilization of the private sector in order to encourage foreign direct investment flows towards the least developed countries;

(i) To assist developing countries, in collaboration with WIPO and WTO, to identify opportunities to attract investment provided by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the "TRIPS Agreement").

9.16 In the area of enterprise development, the objectives are:

(a) To support developing countries through technical cooperation in the formulation of strategies for promoting private sector development;

(b) To contribute to entrepreneurship development, including ensuring the participation of women, and to the reform of public sector enterprises through assistance to developing countries with policy issues and training activities;

(c) To further the participation of developing countries' enterprises in the global economy and to examine the special problems relating to enterprise development in countries with economies in transition;

(d) To facilitate the exchange of experiences in the formulation and implementation of enterprise development strategies, including questions related to privatization, and public/private sector dialogue and cooperation;

(e) To identify and analyse the specific contribution that foreign direct investment can make to indigenous enterprise development and to promote ways to facilitate efficient domestic resource mobilization.

9.17 In the area of technology, the objectives are:

(a) To identify, through science, technology and innovation policy reviews with interested countries, options for national action, especially those which foster technological capability and innovation and the transfer and diffusion of technology;

(b) To identify, through exchange of experiences among countries at different levels of technological development, policies to favour technological capacity-building, innovation and technology flows to developing countries;

(c) To provide technical assistance in technology development, including accessing information technology and disseminating relevant information through an information system and networking;

(d) To assist developing countries, in collaboration with WIPO and WTO, to identify opportunities to attract new technologies provided by the TRIPS Agreement.

9.18 In these activities, in particular in the area of entrepreneurship, investment and enterprise development, UNCTAD will take into account the work done by other international organizations, specifically WTO, ITC, UNIDO and the World Bank Group, in order to enhance synergies, avoid duplication and coordinate related activities.

Subprogramme 9.3 International trade in goods and services and commodities

9.19 The focus of the subprogramme is to maximize the positive impact of globalization and liberalization on sustainable development by assisting in the effective integration of developing countries, in particular the least developed and certain developing countries, such as land-locked and small island developing States, with structurally weak and vulnerable economies, including those countries which are commodity-dependent, into the international trading system. The specific interests of countries with economies in transition will also be taken into account.

9.20 The objectives of the subprogramme, which will be implemented by the International Trade and Commodities Division, are:

(a) To enable the above countries to respond to the opportunities arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements so as to derive maximum benefit by analysing the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on development; enhancing national capacities, in terms of human resources and administrative infrastructures, to enable WTO members to adjust effectively to meet their obligations and to take advantage of their rights; assisting countries in the process of accession to WTO, including by helping them to enhance their understanding of WTO rights and obligations, as well as improving the transparency of their trade regimes; identifying impediments to trading success, including barriers to export expansion and diversification; providing a forum for examination of issues related to trade preferences, including exploring opportunities for maximizing their utilization; facilitating the understanding of the multilateral trading system by analysing, from a development perspective, issues on the international trade agenda, as identified by the Conference or the Trade and Development Board, including new and emerging issues; assisting developing countries, in collaboration with WIPO and WTO, to identify opportunities provided by the TRIPS Agreement, including for attracting investment and new technologies; contributing, as appropriate, to the work of relevant international organizations in the implementation of the Uruguay Round Final Act decision on measures in favour of the least developed countries by assisting the least developed countries that are WTO members to take maximum advantage of the special and differential measures provided for in the Uruguay Round Agreements. Within the framework of its programme of cooperation with WTO, UNCTAD, should provide analytical information relating to the decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on least developed countries and net food-importing developing countries;

(b) To assist developing countries to strengthen their capacities in the services sector, as well as to identify export opportunities by undertaking directly related sectoral analysis;

(c) To examine issues related to competition law of particular relevance to development; continuing analytical work on restrictive business practices; to assist these countries to formulate competition policies and legislation; institution-building; and to focus on Africa by holding a regional meeting, creating relevant inventories and databases and establishing a technical cooperation programme;

(d) To promote the integration of trade, environment and development and continuing the special role of UNCTAD in this field, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/95, paragraph 27, by examining trade and environment issues, from a development perspective, in close cooperation with UNEP and WTO and as task manager for the Commission on Sustainable Development by undertaking the work that the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development proposed for UNCTAD, including in the field of competitiveness, market access, eco-labelling, multilateral environmental agreements, positive measures and trade liberalization and sustainable development;

(e) To address issues of particular relevance to commodity-dependent countries by examining successful commodity diversification experiences; contributing to the transparency of commodity markets and analysing trends in commodity markets, in coordination with international commodity bodies, to supplement market information available to them from the business sector; promoting the management of commodity resources, in the context of sustainable development; and continuing to assist their producers to make use of risk-limiting instruments.

Subprogramme 9.4 Services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency

9.21 The focus of the subprogramme, which will be implemented by the Division on Services for Development and Trade Efficiency, is to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed and those with economies in transition, in generating trade-supporting services such as customs, transportation, banking and insurance and telecommunications or business information, which are adapted to the requirements of those countries, concentrating on services addressing the needs of the informal, micro, small and medium-sized enterprise sectors.

9.22 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To enhance the capacity of interested developing countries and economies in transition to trade efficiently through such programmes as ACIS, ASYCUDA, TRAINMAR, TRAINFORTRADE and the Global Trade Point Network;

(b) To consolidate the Trade Point Network, to make existing Trade Points fully operational and effective, to assist interested countries in establishing new Trade Points, to enhance the capacity of Trade Points as information and training centres for small and medium-sized enterprises, and to support formulation of national policies promoting services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency;

(c) To encourage and provide appropriate assistance, upon request, to developing countries to carry out an assessment of the efficiency of their trade-supporting services and best practices in the light of the recommendations of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency; where parts of such an exercise can be performed by the private sector, this should be encouraged;

(d) Taking into account the relationship between trade efficiency and information infrastructure, in close cooperation with ITU, to assess the practical trade implications of the emerging Global Information Infrastructure and identify relevant avenues for action in this area;

(e) To alleviate special development constraints relating to the high transit/transport costs of landlocked and island developing countries, and the landlocked countries of Central Asia. UNCTAD, jointly with IMO, will pursue the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, concentrating on the commercial aspects of maritime transport and its importance for the sustainable development of those countries through guidelines, studies, training and other assistance.

Subprogramme 9.5 Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

9.23 The focus of this subprogramme, which will be implemented by the Special Coordinator for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries, is to prevent their further marginalization in world trade, investment, commodities and capital markets, and to contribute to their integration and fuller participation in the global economy.

9.24 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries at the global level and to monitor implementation of commitments, measures and recommendations agreed upon by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting of the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action, the ninth session of UNCTAD and the various recent global conferences;

(b) To mobilize and coordinate the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the outcome of the Mid-term Global Review, as well as to coordinate UNCTAD sectoral work on least developed countries;

(c) To ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, particularly as it relates to the specific role assigned to UNCTAD in the areas of trade research and analysis.

9.25 It is noted that the Division for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries has been discontinued as part of the reorganization of the UNCTAD secretariat. Throughout the medium-term plan period (1998-2001), the implementation of the subprogramme will be coordinated by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries. In accordance with the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference, in particular paragraphs 106 and 113 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", least developed countries will constitute a cross-cutting issue in the work of UNCTAD and the sectoral issues will be dealt with by the divisions of UNCTAD within their respective mandates.

Subprogramme 9.6 Institutional development and support services for trade promotion, export development and international purchasing and supply management

9.26 The focus of the subprogramme, for which the Division of Trade Support Services is responsible, is to enhance the competitiveness of enterprises in world markets through the development of institutional capacities for the delivery of effective trade support services; to establish sustainable capacities for human resource development in international business; and to improve the capabilities of importers to use foreign exchange resources more cost effectively in the importation of goods and services.

9.27 The subprogramme will pursue the following objectives:

(a) In the area of institutional development and support services, ITC, working with Governments and the private sector, will contribute to building up capacities, at the national or subregional level, for the design of trade promotion and export development strategies, bringing to bear the business-sector perspective through appropriate coordination mechanisms involving all parties concerned. It will also contribute to establishing comprehensive networks of public and private sector institutions with a view to strengthening institutional support to small and medium-sized enterprises, thus helping them achieve and maintain their competitive edge in the world market. In addition, national capacities will be developed in specialized trade support services, with a focus on four key areas, namely, trade financing, export packaging, export quality and the legal aspects of international trade. Concerning trade financing, the objectives will be to expand and enhance financing schemes offered to small and medium-sized enterprises and to develop skills at the enterprise level for a more effective use of trade financing mechanisms. As regards export packaging, where the continuing objective is to expand and diversify exports of packaged goods from developing countries, the emphasis will be on the health, safety and environmental aspects of packaging. As regards export quality, the focus will be on increased awareness of the changes brought about by the Uruguay Round Agreements with regard to the technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and trade and the environment. Overall quality management at the level of both support organizations and the individual enterprise will be more in line with international market requirements. On legal aspects, enterprises will be better informed of trade-related laws, regulations and models of legal provisions, in particular with reference to the Uruguay Round Agreements on the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, and customs valuation;

(b) In the area of human resource development, the objective, during the initial period of the plan, is to adapt and reinforce existing capacities of training organizations to respond immediately to the business sector's increasingly complex needs for export-related knowledge and skill enhancement. In that context, special emphasis will be placed on strengthening national capacities to understand the business implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements. Subsequently, the objective is to create and support the maintenance of capacities within training organizations progressively to broaden and increase the relevance of their training programmes. The focus will be on in-career training for the professional development of export-oriented entrepreneurs in small and medium-sized enterprises. By the end of the period covered by the plan, strategic alliances for a collaborative programme of applied research and development within a network of selected training institutions will have been established, which will provide a framework for the continuing joint development, updating and testing of export success cases, training materials and capacity-building tools, methods and aids. A model certificate-level syllabus in international competitiveness will have been developed and adopted by institutions participating in the network;

(c) In the area of international purchasing and supply management, the objectives are to achieve:

(i) Increased use by importers of high-performance international purchasing and supply management learning systems and management tools (including diagnostic tools);

(ii) Improved access to and utilization of information on international supply markets;

(iii) An extended network of national purchasing and supply management associations providing useful services to members;

(iv) Upgraded international purchasing and supply management support services (e.g. communications, shipping and cargo monitoring), institutional framework and procedures (in particular those for public sector procurement);

(v) Better integration of quality and environmental concerns in international purchasing and supply management.

In pursuing those objectives special emphasis will be placed on the importing inputs of small and medium-sized enterprises required for export production and on public sector procurement organizations in low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries.

Subprogramme 9.7 Market development and trade information

9.28 The focus of the subprogramme, for which the Division of Product and Market Development is responsible, is to build up capacities at the business-sector level to develop internationally competitive products and services and to market them more effectively with a view to expanding and diversifying exports, and to improve, on a sustainable basis, the availability, dissemination and utilization of trade information.

9.29 In the area of product and market development, the subprogramme will seek to achieve the following objectives:

(a) To improve the capacities of enterprises fully to exploit supply potential and market opportunities for specific products in specific markets, and to formulate export development and marketing strategies;

(b) To improve export performance through product adaptation and design and more effective marketing services;

(c) To increase diversification of export products through new product development, increased diversification of markets through market research, intensification of business contacts and promotional activities;

(d) To contribute to forging technical cooperation links and establishing mechanisms for the promotion of business contacts, partnerships and corporate alliances among enterprises in developing countries, and with partners in developed countries.

Special emphasis will be put on the expansion of South-South and South-East trade, by using the ITC methodology, which combines trade flow analyses, supply-and-demand surveys, buyer-seller meetings and operating subregional trade information networks.

9.30 Concerning commodities, as a result of the abolition of commodity marketing boards, technical assistance must be channelled to an increased number of new exporters. The objective is therefore to enhance private sector development and to ensure effective functioning of the commodity exchanges for physical products. Another objective is to increase consumption in low-consuming countries through generic promotion, in particular of those commodities having environmental advantages.

9.31 In the area of trade information, the objective is to establish self-sustained trade information services and to set up networks for the exchange of information at the national, regional and interregional levels so as to enable enterprises to make effective international marketing decisions on products, services, markets, sources of inputs and other trade-related issues. This will be achieved through human resource development for trade information management relevant to users' needs, a more intensive use of working tools and modern information technologies and the application of international standards. Capabilities will be developed at the exporters' and importers' level for correct interpretation and effective use of trade information. The subprogramme will continue to contribute to the UNCTAD special programme on trade efficiency and in particular to the trade information aspects of its Global Trade Point Network. Synergies with other international organizations and business entities will be developed further.

9.32 Trade information services established through the capacity-building component of the subprogramme will continue to experience difficulties in obtaining certain categories of data directly from the relevant information sources. ITC will, therefore, seek to fill the gap through the supply of information, in order to meet the immediate needs of institutions and enterprises for product- and market-specific information not readily available from other sources. Information will also be provided directly to countries where national capacities for collecting, processing and disseminating such information do not yet exist, in particular the least developed countries. Capitalizing on its extensive knowledge of and wide access to information sources, as well as on its network of business contacts, ITC will contribute to filling the information gap in three main areas: price information on selected products (Market News Service); selected bibliographies, directories and statistical compilations; and an impartial inquiry-reply service.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 9.1 Globalization and development

TD/377	Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development, adopted by the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on 11 May 1996

General Assembly resolutions

50/91	Global financial integration: challenges and opportunities
50/92	Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries
50/95	International trade and development
50/107	Observance of the International Year of the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation

Subprogramme 9.2 Investment, enterprise development and technology

TD/377	Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development, adopted by the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on 11 May 1996

General Assembly resolutions

50/91	Global financial integration: challenges and opportunities
50/92	Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries
50/95	International trade and development
50/101	Science and technology for development
50/106	Business and development

Economic and Social Council resolution

1995/4	Science and technology for development

Subprogramme 9.3	International trade in goods and services and commodities
TD/RBP/CONF.4/14	Resolution adopted by the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, held at Geneva on 13 November 1995
TD/377	Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development, adopted by the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on 11 May 1996
General Assembly resolution	
50/95	International trade and development
Subprogramme 9.4	Services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency
Agenda 21 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum, resolution 1, annex II)	
TD/377	Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development, adopted by the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on 11 May 1996
General Assembly resolutions	
48/170	Assistance to land-locked States in Central Asia
49/101	United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency
49/102	Transit environment in the land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours
49/122	Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
50/95	International trade and development
50/97	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries
Subprogramme 9.5	Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries
TD/377	Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development, adopted by the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on 11 May 1996

General Assembly resolutions

47/173	Implications of the application of the new criteria for identifying the least developed countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
49/100	Specific measures in favour of island developing countries
49/122	Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
50/95	International trade and development
50/97	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries
50/103	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
50/116	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
Subprogramme 9.6	Institutional development and support services for trade promotion, export development and international purchasing and supply management
TD/B/42(I)Prog.7/Add.1	Report of the Trade and Development Board
ITC/AG/(XXVIII)/150	Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-eighth session
Subprogramme 9.7	Market development and trade information
TD/B/42(I)Prog.7/Add.1	Report of the Trade and Development Board
ITC/AG/(XXVIII)/150	Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-eighth session

10.1 The overall orientation of the programme, which is under the responsibility of UNEP, in coordination with other relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations, as appropriate, is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

10.2 The broad approach to be followed by UNEP will focus primarily on developing and promoting assessments, analysing and advising on policy options and assisting in the formulation of management strategies.

10.3 The mandate of the programme emanates from General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), which established the Governing Council of UNEP, the Environment Secretariat and the Environment Fund. Responsibility for inter-agency coordination in the field of environment was assigned by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/197 to the Administrative Committee on Coordination with specific reporting responsibilities to UNEP. Furthermore, chapter 38, paragraphs 21 to 23 and 31 to 34, of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 47/191, extended and reinforced the mandate of UNEP.

10.4 It is expected that by the end of the period covered by the plan, the programme will have accomplished the following:

(a) Provided, through periodic assessments and scientific forecasts, effective support to intergovernmental decision-making and promoted the creation of international and regional consensus on the main threats of environmental degradation and responses;

(b) Enhanced environmentally sound management of resources through international and regional arrangements;

(c) Through policy options and advice, assisted Governments, multilateral organizations and others in incorporating the environmental dimension into the sustainable development process and in strengthening environmental protection;

(d) Increased public awareness and attained greater capacity for environmental management and effective national, regional and international responses to the threats of environmental degradation;

(e) Achieved more effective coordination of environmental matters within the United Nations system.

Subprogramme 10.1 Sustainable management and use of natural resources

10.5 The subprogramme, which is coordinated by the Executive Coordinator, Natural Resources, in the Programme Division, will focus on the following areas: freshwater, coastal and marine resources, biological resources and land resources.

10.6 An estimated one third of the world's population will suffer from chronic water shortage by the year 2025 owing to increasing demand for drinking water caused by growing population, decreasing quality of water resulting from pollution and the rising needs of expanding industries and agriculture. The shortage will be felt in particular by people in arid areas and by rapidly growing coastal populations and mega-cities. The increasing water scarcity, combined with its deteriorating quality, will have far-reaching global impacts on human health, socio-economic development potential of affected countries, freshwater and marine resources, and biodiversity. Pollution of freshwater is escalating throughout the world, affecting in many places the quality of drinking water and the integrity of freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems. The freshwater hydrological cycles are inseparably linked with marine systems, and the problems besetting river basins have a profound impact on the coastal and marine environment. Pollution from land-based sources is currently the most imminent problem affecting the aquatic biological resources and biodiversity.

10.7 The objectives in the area of freshwater, coastal and marine resources are to strengthen internationally coordinated action to alleviate common global problems assailing water resources, especially the Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the framework of the regional seas programme; expand areas covered by regional seas conventions and action plans to river basins draining into them; redesign action plans with focus on integrated management of river basins and coastal zones; connect existing action plans for the management of river basins, lakes and marine areas into organically linked management units; promote freshwater protection and amalgamation methodologies, including recycling, in order to enhance available water resources, in particular in arid areas; and ensure that integrated management of watersheds, lakes and marine areas is based on scientifically sound, realistic and policy-relevant assessments.

10.8 The accelerating loss of biological diversity is undermining sustainable development opportunities worldwide, eroding genes, species and ecosystems that constitute important resources and support systems for human well-being. The challenge is to identify the real socio-economic causes and impacts of changes in biodiversity and to develop strategic means to use the components of biological diversity in ways that do not lead to their long-term decline, while contributing to increasing production functions that underpin human progress.

10.9 The objectives in the area of biological resources are to promote and support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and provide institutional servicing to the Convention and other biodiversity-related conventions; to develop policy instruments for integrated management of biological resources, including aspects of biosafety in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity; to promote and support regional and subregional programmes for the protection of biological resources; to work with UNDP to strengthen the capacity of Governments to formulate national environmental legislation and prepare projects for submission to GEF for financing biodiversity country studies and action plans; and to promote the formulation and implementation of strategies for the protection and sustainable use of marine and freshwater ecosystems and their living resources.

10.10 Dryland degradation is an urgent environmental problem, global in scope, placing some 1 billion people in 110 countries at risk, mainly in developing regions. An estimated one third of the Earth's surface comprises drylands, of which three quarters have suffered some land degradation. Land degradation also occurs in the more humid climatic zones. The causes of land degradation are complex: they include the impacts of drought and flooding; unsustainable agricultural, forestry and urban expansion policies; population and poverty pressures; unfavourable land-tenure rights; underevaluation of land resources and pricing failures; and numerous other social and economic processes.

10.11 The objectives in the area of land resources are to improve policy-relevant assessment of drylands degradation; strengthen international policy support to the development of national, subregional and regional action programmes; increase global awareness of dryland and desertification issues; support the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; and assist in the preparation of projects in the area of land degradation.

Subprogramme 10.2 Sustainable production and consumption

10.12 The subprogramme, which is coordinated by the Executive Coordinator, Sustainable Production and Consumption, in the Programme Division, will focus on the following areas: cleaner production; environmental impact of energy utilization; and environmentally sustainable production and consumption patterns.

10.13 Current trends in population growth and industrialization cause increased accumulation of wastes and pollutants and the unsustainable use of natural resources. If sustainable development is to be achieved, production processes, products and services have to be oriented towards new patterns, in order both to alleviate environmental stress and to achieve more efficient industrial productivity. This will require the development and use of new policy and management tools in both Government and industry, as well as the development and use of environmentally sound technologies, with a focus on cleaner and safer technologies that prevent pollution and use raw materials efficiently.

10.14 In the area of production, the objectives are to assess global and regional trends in industry production patterns and identify policies and strategies for cleaner production; provide better access to information on cleaner production technologies for developing countries and countries with economies in transition; build international consensus on issues of sustainable production patterns and responses to them; support and catalyse national, subregional and regional clean production centres; assist in developing national and local capabilities to prepare for and respond to technological accidents; and provide effective servicing to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

10.15 Energy is a major component of economic development. Its production and consumption, however, have major short- and long-term impacts on the environment. Government and industry should therefore intensify efforts to formulate sustainable energy policies and develop technologies for production and use of energy in an economically efficient and environmentally sound manner. The objectives in this area are to expand dissemination of information on energy-efficient technologies and the impact of energy use on the environment; promote consensus-building among suppliers and consumers of energy at the global and regional levels on environmentally sound energy policies; assist with preparation of projects on mitigating or eliminating adverse impacts of climate change for GEF financing; and provide effective institutional support to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

10.16 The major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, in particular in industrialized countries, which aggravates poverty and inequities. Measures to be undertaken at the international level for the protection and enhancement of the environment must take fully into account the current imbalances in the global patterns of consumption and production. Special attention should be paid to the demand for natural resources generated by unsustainable consumption and to the efficient use of those resources consistent with the goal of minimizing depletion and reducing pollution. The objectives in this area are to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between production and consumption; promote dialogue among developed countries on environmentally sustainable production and consumption patterns; and promote information exchange on sustainable production and consumption systems.

Subprogramme 10.3 A better environment for human health and well-being

10.17 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is coordinated by the Executive Coordinator, Human Health and Well-Being, in the Programme Division, will focus on the following areas: reduced impact of toxic chemicals and waste; improved environmental management practices in urban areas; and mitigating the effects of environmental change and environmental emergencies.

10.18 The use of chemicals is essential to protect public health and increase food production, but unregulated use of toxic chemicals or uncontrolled disposal of hazardous wastes threaten the environment and human health, while many countries lack the necessary information, resources and expertise to ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste. The objectives are to facilitate access to data on chemicals needed to assess, reduce and manage health and environmental risks; through the work of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; to monitor and assess global trends and impacts of hazardous wastes; to formulate guidelines on environmentally appropriate options for hazardous waste management; to promote the preparation and implementation of an international legally binding instrument on prior informed consent for hazardous chemicals in international trade; and to foster the development of a global instrument on persistent organic pollutants.

10.19 A growing proportion of the world's population lives in urban areas where social and environmental conditions are deteriorating rapidly. Continued deterioration of urban environments will not only impair the health and welfare of the populations but also reduce the capacity of large urban centres to sustain their role as engines for economic growth. The objectives in this area are to assess the effects of environmental pollution in urban areas and their impact on human health and well-being; promote innovative strategies for improving urban environmental planning and management through the Sustainable Cities Programme and the implementation of local versions of Agenda 21; and facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to address the management of sewage, solid waste and freshwater resources for urban areas.

10.20 Most human populations are at risk from environmental change. This ranges from global change, such as depletion of the ozone layer, to exposure to harmful agents in the domestic environment. In addition, environmental accidents and emergencies occur with increasing frequency, placing natural and human habitats under acute stress. There is also an urgent need to assess the extent and severity of newly emerging threats and to investigate ways of anticipating environmental emergencies. The objectives in this area are to develop response strategies for environmental threats and emergencies.

Subprogramme 10.4 Handling globalization and the environment

10.21 The subprogramme, which is coordinated by the Executive Coordinator, Globalization, in the Programme Division, will focus on the following areas: trade and environment, environmental economics and environmental law.

10.22 The globalization of trade, monetary and fiscal policies, capital markets and investment patterns is reshaping economic structures, factors of production, economies of scale and other considerations. Simultaneously, national and international responses to accelerating environmental degradation continue to strengthen. International consensus exists on the need to ensure that structural changes under way in the international economic order integrate ecological realities and environmental policy priorities. Considerable empirical, economic, legal and environmental assessment challenges remain, however, in delineating the ecological implications of economic globalization. The objectives in this area are to strengthen environmental assessment of international economic policies; improve environmental macro- and micro-economic analysis of the effectiveness and benefit/costs of environmental policies; and clarify relationships between international, regional and national environmental legislation, and international and regional trade agreements.

10.23 The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recommended the integration of ecological factors into economic priorities as a prerequisite to sustainable development. Since the Conference, progress has been made to define links between the symptoms of environmental degradation and underlying pricing failures and other economic causes. However, the gap between conceptual analysis and practical application of environmental economics remains wide. Considerable methodological and technical challenges remain: defining the degree of environmental problems; choosing appropriate economic tools; identifying specific needs of individual countries; internalizing environmental externalities; adjusting market prices to reflect environmental factors; increasing the effectiveness of environmental impact assessment; linking environmental valuation with economic instruments; building technical and information capacity, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and using environmental economic tools effectively in environmental and economic planning. The objectives in this area are to develop further and facilitate application of environmental economic tools, including valuation, natural resource accounting and environmental impact assessments, and to mobilize resources to support environmentally sound development.

10.24 Environmental change affects the global commons and, owing to globalization, impacts of environmental deterioration occur far from the original sources of change. To respond to the deterioration of the global and regional commons and to regulate environmental change worldwide, international and national laws have evolved to give expression to the policy decisions of Governments as an essential tool for the management of the environment at national and international levels. The expanded environmental agenda has increased the need for further enhanced and more efficient legal and institutional regimes to meet the requirements of integrating environment and development. The objectives in this area are to provide a legal framework for facilitating the implementation of Agenda 21, in particular the further development of international environmental law in support of sustainable development; and further strengthen UNEP technical legal and institutional assistance for development and implementation of environmental law, including national environmental legislation.

Subprogramme 10.5 Global and regional servicing and support

10.25 The subprogramme, which is under the responsibility of the Division of Policy and External Relations, the Division of Environmental Information and Assessment and the regional offices, will focus on global environment assessment; information for decision-making and action planning; environmental information services; public awareness, education and outreach to major groups; and support to regional and subregional cooperation.

10.26 UNEP addresses the need to keep under review the state of the world's environment and provide early warning of environmental threats. This is done through the preparation of and support to the production of global and regional state-of-the-environment assessments, which include consideration of socio-economic driving forces and interactions. The objective is to improve access to information for decision-making and enhance developing countries' capabilities to use the information.

10.27 Scientific research is necessary to understand the functioning of natural systems, which ultimately determine the carrying capacity of the Earth and the ecological basis of sustainable development. A coordinated international scientific effort is necessary to address the critical linkages in the biosphere. This effort should involve local expertise and be conducted, whenever possible, by multidisciplinary teams from regional networks and/or research. The objective therefore is to promote targeted scientific and policy-relevant research in critical environmental areas, with special emphasis on climate, biodiversity, water and land degradation.

10.28 The gap in the availability, quality, coherence, standardization and accessibility to environmental data between the developed and the developing countries has been increasing, seriously impairing the capacities of the developing countries to make informed decisions concerning the sustainable utilization of natural resources. There is, in addition, a general lack of capacity, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for the efficient cross-sectoral handling of data, for their transformation into useful information on cumulative environmental impacts and for their dissemination to national and regional users. The objective is therefore to strengthen the existing national and international mechanisms of information processing and exchange, and of related technical assistance, in order to ensure effective and equitable availability of information generated at the local, provincial, national and international levels, subject to national sovereignty and relevant intellectual property rights.

10.29 There is a need to ensure that the world community has unfettered and coordinated access to UNEP information resources, as well as to environmental information in general. In that context, it is necessary for UNEP to facilitate access to unique sources of data and information, and to encourage the filling of information gaps. In addition, there needs to be improved coordination among environmental, demographic, social and developmental data and information activities, and the mechanisms of information management and delivery need to be harmonized. The objective is to design and implement a coordinated system for international environment information exchange.

10.30 There is also a need for fully developed and coherent policies in the field of environment, as well as for adequate coordination of policy research and implementation. The objectives in this area are to develop policy recommendations and responses to emerging environmental issues and major events; promote collaboration between international and regional conventions in the field of environment; elaborate and promote the implementation of policies on gender and environment; promote and enhance environmental collaboration with and between international financial institutions; and lead system-wide coordination in the field of environment at the policy level.

10.31 Education and awareness are critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environmental issues. They are necessary to achieve environmental and ethical awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behaviour consistent with sustainable development and for effective public participation by all groups in decision-making. The solution of environmental problems rests ultimately in the change or conscious adaptation of individual behaviour. The objectives in this area are to increase understanding of environmental issues and to utilize emerging information technologies in order to promote the participation of individuals and local communities in environmental decision-making; foster partnerships and strategic alliances with major groups, including the scientific community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector; and encourage good environmental citizenship on an individual level.

10.32 In response to geographically differentiated environmental concerns and interests, groups of countries are establishing or have already established cooperative regional and subregional frameworks. These frameworks provide effective mechanisms for the implementation of global environmental agreements and for addressing specific problems common to the participating States. The objective is to promote and support regional and subregional cooperative frameworks, including through advisory services to Governments, at their request.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 10.1 Sustainable management and use of natural resources

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/193	Observance of World Day for Water
47/194	Capacity-building for Agenda 21
48/174	Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme
49/80	Question of Antarctica
49/111	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session
49/115	Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
49/131	Question of declaring 1998 International Year of the Ocean
50/110	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
50/111	Convention on Biological Diversity

50/112	Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa
50/116	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
50/126	Water supply and sanitation

Governing Council decisions

15/24	Sustainable agriculture
15/27	Precautionary approach to marine pollution, including waste-dumping at sea
15/41	Environmental impact assessment
16/27	Sea-level rise
17/19	Desertification
18/1	The role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme
18/28	Environmental indicators
18/31	Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities
18/32	Persistent organic pollutants
18/33	International coral reef initiative
18/36	Biological diversity

Subprogramme 10.2 Sustainable production and consumption

General Assembly resolutions

45/208	Report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/194	Capacity-building for Agenda 21
48/174	Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme
49/111	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session
49/114	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
50/101	Science and technology for development

50/110	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
50/115	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind
50/124	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Governing Council decisions

16/31	List of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance
17/17	Transfer of environmentally sound technology
17/18	Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes
18/12	Development of an internationally legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals
18/23	Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level, and international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts of exports
18/35	Lead in gasoline

Subprogramme 10.3 A better environment for human health and well-being

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/194	Capacity-building for Agenda 21
48/174	Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme
49/80	Question of Antarctica
49/111	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session
50/26	Effects of atomic radiation
50/99	Commission on Human Settlements
50/110	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

Governing Council decisions

15/18	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
15/28	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
15/30	Environmentally safe management of chemicals, in particular those that are banned and severely restricted, in international trade
15/33	Progress in the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes
16/35	Toxic chemicals
17/25	Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law
17/26	United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance

Subprogramme 10.4 Handling globalization and the environment

General Assembly resolutions

44/226	Traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes
44/227	Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187
44/229	International cooperation in the field of the environment
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
48/174	Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme
49/111	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session
49/126	Agenda for development
50/95	International trade and development
50/110	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Governing Council decisions

16/2	Integration of environment and development
16/30	Hazardous waste

18/3	Globalization and environment
18/16	Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events
18/27	Earthwatch

Subprogramme 10.5 Global and regional servicing and support

General Assembly resolutions

42/186	The Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond
46/217	International cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/194	Capacity-building for Agenda 21
48/174	Strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme
48/192	Strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems
49/111	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session
49/112	Support for the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme
50/81	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/101	Science and technology for development
50/110	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
50/115	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind
50/117	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Governing Council decisions

1/I	Action Plan for the human environment: programme development and priorities
9/3	Coordination questions
15/38	Harmonization of environmental measurements
16/25	Strengthening of three main secretariat units through the establishment of programme activity centres

17/1	Cooperation and linkages between the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies
18/7	Environment and sustainable development: relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development

PROGRAMME 11. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

11.1 The overall orientation of the programme, which is under the responsibility of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS), is to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the global plan of action resulting from the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul in June 1996. The goals of the Habitat Agenda are adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. The strategies to achieve these goals include enablement and participation, and capacity-building and the development of institutions.

11.2 Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. In the increasingly urbanized world of the twenty-first century, urban and rural populations will be more and more interdependent for their economic, environmental and social well-being. Thus, the Habitat Agenda emphasized the need to improve living conditions, especially of the poor, in both rural and urban settlements. In so doing, special attention will be paid to the critical situation and needs of African countries and the least developed countries, as well as of countries with economies in transition, in promoting the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.

11.3 The broad approach to be followed by the Centre is to provide support to, and work in partnership with, Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in responding to the social, economic and environmental challenges of rapid urbanization and in ensuring that settlements of all sizes have the capacity to play their key developmental role and provide for the basic needs of their people.

11.4 The mandate of the programme is derived from the Habitat II Conference, in particular the Habitat Agenda, and General Assembly resolutions 32/162, by which the Centre was established, and 43/181, by which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. The mandate derives also from the decisions of the relevant legislative bodies regarding Agenda 21 (chaps. 7, 21 and 28) and the outcomes of the other recent global conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations.

11.5 By the end of the period covered by the plan, it is expected that the programme will have increased institutional and technical capacity at the national and local levels to elaborate, execute, monitor and evaluate shelter and sustainable human settlements programmes to implement the Habitat Agenda, and through it the objectives of Agenda 21, at the local level. This will be achieved through an integrated approach consisting of policy advice, targeted technical cooperation and the exchange of and learning from experience and best practices through new networks and partnerships at the international, national and local levels. Reflecting the call in the Habitat Agenda for the Centre to focus on well-defined objectives and strategic issues, the programme will focus on the three substantive core areas of shelter and social services, urban management and environment and infrastructure, as well as the cross-cutting functions of networking, assessment and monitoring.

Subprogramme 11.1 Shelter and social services

11.6 The worldwide problem of inadequate shelter and basic social services, in particular for poor and low-income households, continues to constrain human, economic and social development, and challenges the capacities of the public and the private sectors in most countries to produce housing at the required scale and at affordable cost. The adoption and implementation of policies and programmes for urban and rural settlements based on the enabling approach outlined in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the corresponding action areas in the Habitat Agenda will be accorded high priority. In that regard, efforts will be directed at the formulation and periodic evaluation of enabling policies as a framework for efficient and effective delivery systems for shelter and basic social services. Emphasis will be placed on learning from examples of best practices in public/private partnerships and community participation, and on removing institutional and regulatory constraints. Attention will also be given to issues that cannot be left to the market, especially those which adversely affect the living conditions of the poor.

11.7 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote policies, enabling strategies and delivery systems for housing and social services that are responsive to the need for adequate shelter and security of tenure, in particular for the poor and vulnerable groups;

(b) To strengthen the capacity of local communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute to shelter delivery in poor urban and rural settlements, by, inter alia, supporting self-help housing, regularizing land tenure and upgrading basic services;

(c) To contribute to improving the capacity of finance institutions to address the needs of people having limited or no access to conventional forms of housing finance;

(d) To strengthen the capacity of Governments at all levels, the private sector, communities and non-governmental organizations to provide, manage and maintain basic social services;

(e) To contribute to improving the capacity of the construction industry to meet the requirements of the housing sector for affordable building materials, related services and appropriate building technologies.

Subprogramme 11.2 Urban management

11.8 Rapid urbanization, the concentration of urban population in large cities, the sprawl of cities into wider geographical areas and the rapid growth of mega-cities are among the most significant transformations of our era. An increasingly urbanized world implies that sustainable development will depend largely on the management capacity in urban settlements of all sizes. The municipal level of government can be an effective partner in making human settlements viable, equitable and sustainable, since it is the level of administration closest to the people. However, as recognized in the Habitat Agenda, the scarcity of suitably qualified personnel and the weakness of institutional systems and technical capacity are among the main obstacles to the improvement of human settlements in many countries, particularly in developing countries. Capacity-building and institutional development strategies must therefore form an integral part of human settlements development policies at the national and local levels. In developing countries in particular, where changes in human settlements patterns are rapid, resulting in pressing socio-economic and environmental challenges, there is a need to ensure effective and efficient development and transfer of leadership skills, planning and management expertise, know-how, technology and resources.

11.9 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To contribute to the emergence and institutionalization of an enabling and participatory approach to the management of human settlements development through the promotion of appropriate policy instruments, including regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties;

(b) To strengthen the capacity of local authorities and their associations and networks to share good practice and innovative approaches to sustainable human settlements management, as well as to strengthen networking and exchange of expertise and experience, best practice, know-how and technology, including the development of information systems for that purpose;

(c) To assist Governments at the national and local levels with the mobilization and allocation of financial resources, including from private sector sources and capital markets, so as to strengthen the financial and economic base for the sustainable management of human settlements and strengthen the capacities of both central and local governments through training in urban finance and management;

(d) To promote land-management policies and practices that will contribute to sustainable settlement development while ensuring that markets respond adequately to demand and meet community needs;

(e) To promote comprehensive training, education and human resource development policies that are gender-sensitive and involve local authorities and their associations and networks, as well as academic, research, training and educational institutions, community-based organizations and the private sector.

Subprogramme 11.3 Environment and infrastructure

11.10 The sustainability of the global environment, in accordance with the objectives set out in Agenda 21, will not be achieved unless human settlements in both rural and urban areas are made economically buoyant, socially vibrant and environmentally sound. A central premise of the Habitat Agenda is that urban settlements hold promise for the protection and careful use of the world's natural resources through their ability to support large numbers of people while limiting their impact on the natural environment. The provision and maintenance of infrastructure and services, which is basic to the improvement of the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements, requires working partnerships among the public, private and community sectors of society, particularly at the local level, as emphasized by the local Agenda 21 framework and the Habitat Agenda. Local authorities require specific assistance to plan, operate and maintain the physical, social and environmental infrastructure of human settlements, and establish local environmental policies. Efforts will focus on strengthening capacities for integrated environmental management and on providing specific support measures for investments in the transfer of proven, environmentally sound infrastructure technologies, the dissemination of best practices in improving the living environment and the strengthening of administrative and technical capacities of local institutions.

11.11 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To strengthen the capacity of Governments at national and local levels, as well as of the private sector, to manage the rapidly growing demand for infrastructure and services in urban and rural settlements in an economically efficient, environmentally sound and socially sustainable manner;

(b) To strengthen capacity at the municipal and neighbourhood levels to provide access to basic infrastructure and promote voluntary, private and community sector involvement in the building, operating and maintenance of basic infrastructure;

(c) To strengthen capacities for integrated environmental planning and management and support local environmental plans and implementation of Agenda 21 at the local level through programmes aimed at enhancing planning capabilities, participatory mechanisms and information exchange at the local level;

(d) To promote urban and rural planning and design solutions in the fields of waste disposal, sanitation, water supply, transportation and energy that maximize access and efficiency and pay due regard to the carrying capacity of the ecosystem;

(e) To assist Governments at national and local levels, as well as communities, to improve the management and planning capacity for disaster mitigation and preparedness and to manage reconstruction activities after natural and human-made disasters.

Subprogramme 11.4 Assessment, monitoring and information

11.12 As called for in the Habitat Agenda, it is essential to evaluate the impact of policies, strategies and actions on the provision of adequate shelter and the achievement of sustainable human settlements development. The present subprogramme, therefore, has a cross-cutting and central support function for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to support the responsibilities assigned to the Commission on Human Settlements and UNCHS by the Habitat II Conference. As such, it will be specifically responsible for establishing an appropriate process for analysing and monitoring major trends in urbanization and the impact of urban policies, including the collection of gender-disaggregated data. It will also facilitate national and local monitoring of the Habitat Agenda. Efforts will be further directed at global information exchange and establishing the modalities for the dissemination of best practices as called for in the Agenda. The information generated will be made widely accessible and will reflect regional, national and local diversities.

11.13 Other more specific objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To create an urban observatory in the form of a network of information collection and analysis linking the Centre with all other relevant organizations and partners;

(b) To provide assistance to establish guidelines for national and local monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through the use of housing and human settlements indicators, and to strengthen the data collection and analysis capabilities at all levels;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of UNCHS to act as a central clearing house for and facilitate the global exchange of information on adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, through, inter alia, the identification, documentation and exchange of best practices, and to serve as the focal point of reference within the United Nations system and as a global network hub for dissemination of information and expertise on human settlements issues, indicators, conditions and trends, including the maintenance and updating of a global directory of expertise to support implementation of national and local action plans;

(d) To encourage the establishment or reinforcement, as appropriate, of global networks among all interested parties, and with the private sector in particular, to facilitate exchange of environmentally sound technologies and know-how, as well as the mobilization of resources;

(e) To enhance the capacity of UNCHS and the capacity of relevant partners and organizations, for joint programming and monitoring in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and chapters 7, 21 and 28 of Agenda 21.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 11.1 Shelter and social services

A/CONF.165/14	Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996

General Assembly resolutions

43/181	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
50/99	Commission on Human Settlements

Subprogramme 11.2 Urban management

A/CONF.165/14	Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996

General Assembly resolutions

43/181	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
50/99	Commission on Human Settlements

Subprogramme 11.3 Environment and infrastructure

A/CONF.165/14	Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996

General Assembly resolutions

43/181	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
50/99	Commission on Human Settlements

Subprogramme 11.4 Assessment, monitoring and information

A/CONF.165/14	Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996

General Assembly resolutions

43/181	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
50/99	Commission on Human Settlements

PROGRAMME 12. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

12.1 The general orientation of this programme is to promote more effective international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice by devising strategies to deal with global problems and by assisting Governments in their national and multilateral efforts to respond to changing crime trends, as well as to create the necessary instruments and institutions for a more accountable, transparent and effective crime prevention and control system. The programme will also endeavour to disseminate expertise in the effective and humane handling of offences, offenders and victims.

12.2 The mandate for the programme lies in the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretariat by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. More specifically, the mandate derives from General Assembly resolutions 46/152 and 49/159 and the recommendations emanating from the Ninth and Tenth United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division will be responsible for the implementation of this programme.

Subprogramme 12.1 Crime prevention and criminal justice

12.3 The subprogramme will focus on six main objectives during the period covered under the plan, as follows:

(a) To promote the fundamental principles of maintenance of the rule of law and to increase the capacity of States to devise and implement effective, integrated and consolidated strategies and measures at the national level, and to put into effect bilateral and multilateral arrangements at the regional and international levels. This will result in an increase in bilateral and multilateral arrangements at the regional and international levels, together with the promulgation of more effective strategies and measures at the national level to deal with sophisticated forms of crime;

(b) To support the strengthening of the capacity of Governments, at their request, to improve their legislation and criminal justice systems and to establish or strengthen their institutions and mechanisms for the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of various types of crime. Due attention will be given to firearms regulation measures in accordance with current national legislation and appropriate United Nations legislative mandates. Further, the programme will seek to upgrade the skills of the crime prevention and criminal justice personnel. As a result, by the end of the period covered under this plan, requesting countries will have received the assistance necessary to revise relevant legislation, reorganize their criminal justice systems and initiate long-term strategies for the training of criminal justice personnel, in line with international instruments and recommendations;

(c) To strengthen international cooperation and improve the response of Member States, both individually and collectively, to the various forms of transnational crime, such as, in particular, organized transnational crime, economic crime, the laundering of the proceeds of crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, environmental offences and illicit traffic in children. The programme will seek to improve the knowledge of Member States on the costs of and dangers posed by these forms of crime to sustainable development and democracy. The work of the programme will result in improved legislation and regulatory measures at the national level against these forms of crime and the development of a common concept of organized transnational crime. In addition, significant progress will be made towards the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, taking into account the growing dangers of links between organized transnational crime, terrorist crimes and drug trafficking;

(d) To increase awareness among Governments, and in particular among policy-making and planning and implementation agencies, of the importance and long-term effectiveness of devising and including in development plans measures and strategies for crime prevention and control, in particular in the urban areas and in the broader context of public security. To that end, the programme will increase the dissemination of knowledge and information necessary to States in order to make rational and informed decisions in this area. It will maximize the access of States to up-to-date information on crime trends and other pertinent data contained in relevant databases and incorporated in the global United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network. The work of the programme will result in an increased knowledge of crime prevention and control methods, as well as a better evaluation of the operations of criminal justice systems by means of the increased availability of timely and accurate information and data on evolving patterns and dynamics of crime;

(e) To raise public awareness of the United Nations standards and norms and the benefits of their application and use, and to promote the wide application of those standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The programme will identify the problems impeding the practical application of the United Nations standards and norms and recommend appropriate action designed to deal more effectively with burgeoning crime. By promoting the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms, the programme will increase the confidence of the public in law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and improve the public's response to the need for assistance to those agencies in the performance of their functions;

(f) To mobilize increased resources for technical cooperation activities and revitalize the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. The programme will also ensure improved overall coordination within the United Nations system, especially with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for Human Rights, and will strengthen the capacity of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its efforts to improve coordination of technical cooperation activities, whether carried out bilaterally or multilaterally. This will broaden the availability of material assistance and expertise for policy makers and criminal justice practitioners and improve the Secretariat's capacity to respond to requests for assistance.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

41/144	Summary or arbitrary executions
46/152	Creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme
47/87	International cooperation in combating organized crime
48/102	Prevention of the smuggling of aliens

48/137	Human rights in the administration of justice
49/158	Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity
50/145	Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1989/57	Implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power
1989/60	Procedures for the effective implementation of the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary
1989/61	Guidelines for the effective implementation of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials
1989/64	Implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty
1992/22	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/152 concerning operational activities and coordination in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice
1994/13	Control of the proceeds of crime
1994/15	The role of criminal law in the protection of the environment
1994/17	Proposal for the development of minimum rules for the administration of criminal justice
1995/9	Guidelines for the prevention of urban crime
1995/10	Criminal justice action to combat the organized smuggling of illegal migrants across national boundaries
1995/11	Implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime
1995/12	Establishment of a clearing-house for international projects in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice
1995/13	United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice
1995/14	Action against corruption
1995/15	Technical cooperation and interregional advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions

1/1	Strategic management by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme
4/1	Succession of States in respect of international treaties on combating various manifestations of crime
4/2	Proposal for the development of minimum rules for the administration of criminal justice
4/3	Provision of information in accordance with the plan for strategic management by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme

PROGRAMME 13. INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

13.1 The international community has given a key role to the United Nations in the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. Concerted international action is anchored in the consensus of the international community embodied in the drug control conventions and resolutions of the General Assembly. The role of the Organization was enhanced as a result of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in June 1998.

13.2 More specifically, the mandates of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme are contained in:

(a) The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and its Protocol of 1972, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

(b) The Comprehensive and Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1987;

(c) Resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in particular Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, by which it adopted the Global Programme of Action against the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and resolutions 45/179 of 21 December 1990 and 47/100 of 16 December 1992;

(d) The outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, held in June 1998: the Political Declaration (resolution S-20/2), the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (resolution S-20/3) and measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem (resolution S-20/4).

13.3 Under the drug control system, of which the conventions are an essential part, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the main intergovernmental policy-making body in drug control. It also acts as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which is responsible for the implementation of the Programme. The International Narcotics Control Board oversees compliance by Governments with their obligations under the conventions. The Programme supports the work of the Commission and the Board and assists Governments in enhancing the impact of drug control efforts.

13.4 The development and maintenance of accepted international norms and standards for drug control will be central to the work of the Organization in that field. As the main focus for concerted international action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme will monitor, promote and coordinate drug control efforts. It will ensure harmonized action by United Nations agencies and programmes, promote cooperation with other concerned international organizations, in particular the international financial institutions, and facilitate dialogue and cooperation among Governments at the subregional, regional and global levels.

13.5 To support development of international drug control policy, information networks for gathering, analysing and disseminating information and knowledge will be established. Comprehensive assessments of the global drug problem will be prepared together with the identification and dissemination of proven drug control measures. Advantage will be taken of new technologies, in particular the Internet, to ensure that information disseminated about drugs contributes to the goal of reducing human suffering caused by drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

13.6 Drawing from the Fund of the Programme, technical advice and assistance will be provided at the request of Governments in support of efforts at the national level towards a balanced approach to drug abuse control targeting both illicit demand and supply. Support will concentrate on development of national and regional capacity to elaborate effective drug control policies and plans and on strengthening institutions responsible for implementing them. Multilateral and bilateral organizations will be encouraged to take into account the issue of drug control in their work. Networks to share information and knowledge on drug abuse and effective methodologies in tackling drug abuse will be established, and Governments will be provided better information on trends and effective drug control strategies, techniques and countermeasures.

Subprogramme 13.1 Coordination and promotion of international drug control

13.7 The objectives of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the offices under the direct supervision of the Executive Director, are as follows:

(a) To ensure unity of purpose and coherence of action in drug control by the international community, including coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of drug control activities across the United Nations common system. To that end, the subprogramme will promote the implementation by Governments and by regional and international organizations active in drug control of the international drug control strategy embodied in the Global Programme of Action, the international drug control conventions and the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The Programme will provide leadership for the United Nations common system, ensuring its active and coordinated participation in the implementation of the strategy;

(b) To prepare comprehensive, scientifically valid and objective assessments of the global drug problem over time to measure the extent, patterns and causes of drug abuse, production and trafficking as well as the social, economic and cultural aspects and impact, and to forecast future trends. To that end, a biennial global assessment of the international drug problem will be researched, drafted and published in the form of a world drug report;

(c) To increase awareness among decision and opinion makers and the general public of the problem of drug abuse and its consequences. To that end, the subprogramme will focus in particular on the involvement of civil society and non-governmental organizations and the promotion of understanding of the multidimensional nature of the drug problem. Consultations at the regional and global levels will be organized to promote and encourage self-restraint and to develop frameworks for removal of illegal drug-related information from the Internet. To disseminate accurate and timely information on various aspects of the drug problem, particularly on amphetamine-type stimulants, a worldwide clearing-house system will be established utilizing the Internet in partnership with other international organizations, States and national, regional and international documentation centres;

(d) To have in place, in selected subregions, cooperation arrangements which embody a common understanding of and approach to drug control shared by the countries concerned. Needs and opportunities for multilateral cooperation in drug control at the regional and subregional levels will be identified and concrete coordination arrangements will be promoted through advocacy and technical support. Joint assessments of existing subregional agreements with the Governments concerned will also be carried out and cooperation mechanisms and arrangements will be updated. In certain subregions, coordination of bilateral and multilateral technical assistance to combat illicit trafficking of drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants and precursors, will be improved, taking into account national priorities, in a continuous dialogue with the competent national authorities;

(e) To improve national capacities to coordinate drug control activities and to develop and implement comprehensive, balanced drug control policies and strategies. National drug control planning and coordination institutions will be established or strengthened, national drug control plans will be adopted, and drug control concerns will be included in national development plans.

Subprogramme 13.2 International drug control monitoring and policy-making

13.8 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Treaty Affairs and Support to Drug Control Organs, are as follows:

(a) To improve the quality of the analytical, organizational and administrative support provided to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, its subsidiary bodies and intergovernmental conferences dealing with international drug control so as to facilitate their effective functioning;

(b) To enable the International Narcotics Control Board to execute its responsibilities under the international drug control conventions and relevant resolutions of intergovernmental bodies through the provision of effective and efficient substantive and technical services. These will include the provision of useful and reliable data, information and knowledge on the nature, patterns and trends in the licit supply of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors; identification and analysis of issues related to treaty compliance; maintenance of dialogue with Governments on the Board's behalf; and wider dissemination of the Board's findings and annual reports;

(c) To support the International Narcotics Control Board in establishing, maintaining and strengthening national and international controls over licit supplies of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in a manner that ensures their adequate availability for medical, scientific and other licit purposes, while preventing their diversion to illicit channels. The Board will be enabled to monitor compliance by Governments with the control measures established by the conventions or recommended by the Economic and Social Council. In particular, it will be enabled to monitor the production, manufacture, international trade, distribution and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to administer the system of estimates and assessments for national requirements of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

(d) To enable the Board to assist Governments in preventing the diversion of precursors to illicit channels through monitoring compliance by Governments with the control measures established by the conventions or recommended by the Economic and Social Council; to analyse information on licit and illicit trends in the manufacture and use of precursors; to maintain a special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances and develop methods to detect and analyse them; to develop and maintain a database on precursors; to provide expanded advice and assistance to States to identify suspicious transactions; to study the potential use of non-scheduled substances in the manufacture of illicit drugs; and to assess substances for possible control under the 1988 Convention.

Subprogramme 13.3 Demand reduction: prevention and reduction of drug abuse

13.9 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Operations and Analysis, are as follows:

(a) To ensure the availability to Governments of useful and reliable data, information and analyses on the nature of and patterns and trends in drug abuse, to enable them to formulate effective policies, strategies and countermeasures. To that end, networks to gather information will be established or improved, linking, as appropriate, Governments, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, among others; the information systems of Governments and the Programme will be further developed, ensuring compatibility with, and maximizing access to, various sources of data and information; quality and comparability of data and information on the national and international levels will be improved; quantitative and qualitative indicators will be developed for measuring the drug problem to enable international comparisons of drug trends to be made, in cooperation with regional and national bodies; harmonized data collection methodologies and data and information standards will be more widely used; and the International Drug Abuse Assessment System will be strengthened. Research on and analyses of patterns and trends in abuse will be made available to Governments;

(b) To expand the information available to Governments, international organizations and experts on effective strategies, approaches, projects and programmes to reduce illicit demand for drugs. To that end, the inventory of effective strategies, approaches, projects and programmes to reduce illicit demand and supply maintained by the Programme will be improved and expanded, and effective countermeasures tailored to local conditions against drug abuse will be identified. Research will be promoted and studies conducted on drug abuse and demand reduction interventions, in particular effective methods of preventing drug abuse, concentrating on those most at risk, in particular youth. Working closely with States, the Programme will identify and disseminate best practice in the various aspects of demand reduction. Public awareness of the dangers of drug abuse will be increased, by such means as conferences and publications. Experimental and model programmes and projects that could be adapted to different circumstances will be elaborated, with a view to preventing drug abuse, to treating, rehabilitating and reintegrating drug abusers, and international cooperation to exchange information on effective countermeasures will be improved at the subregional, regional and global levels;

(c) To support Governments in increasing the effectiveness of national efforts to prevent and reduce drug abuse. To that end, Governments will be assisted to develop more effective methods for collecting and analysing drug abuse-related data and to develop action-oriented strategies, policies and programmes to implement the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. Governments will be provided technical advice on effective integrated prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes together with the results of research on, and assessments of, the effectiveness of demand reduction modalities and techniques. Assistance will also be provided to mobilize communities and civil society to promote a society free of drug abuse and to provide alternatives to consumption of illicit drugs, focusing in particular on investing in and working with youth. Pilot and demonstration activities will be elaborated, implemented, monitored and evaluated.

Subprogramme 13.4 Supply reduction: elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking

13.10 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Operations and Analysis, are as follows:

(a) To establish and maintain a repository of data and information on illicit cultivation, including production in enclosed premises, and conduct assessments and analyses to provide Governments an independent, neutral, objective source for measuring the extent, causes and effects of illicit production, as well as the impact of alternative development interventions. To that end, networks to gather information will be established or improved, linking, as appropriate, Governments, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, among others. Technical assistance will be provided at the request of Governments to support States in monitoring illicit cultivation in their respective territories through appropriate survey methodologies;

(b) To establish and maintain a global centre of information on clandestine synthetic drugs, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants. To this end, the problem will be monitored worldwide, changing patterns of abuse, production and trafficking will be analysed and the relative positions of botanical and synthetic drugs will be assessed, and new scientific and technical dimensions will be investigated and the results disseminated to States and to the public;

(c) To ensure the availability to Governments of useful and reliable data, information and analyses on the nature of and patterns and trends in illicit drug trafficking to enable them to formulate effective policies, strategies and countermeasures. Information systems will be further developed, ensuring compatibility with and maximizing access to various sources of data and information; quality and comparability of data and information on the national and international levels will be improved. Scientific and technical information on drugs and precursors will be made available to Governments, as well as research on and analyses of patterns of and trends in illicit drug trafficking;

(d) To provide timely and accurate information to the international community on money laundering so as to enable Governments to adopt adequate strategies, policies and countermeasures. States will be assisted to put in place measures consistent with international standards giving effect to the provision of the 1988 Convention, to prevent financial systems from being used to launder illicit proceeds and to adopt and implement adequate laws and regulations and establish teams of trained personnel to support or advise financial investigations;

(e) To expand the information available to Governments, international organizations and experts on effective strategies, approaches, projects and programmes to eliminate illicit cultivation and to suppress illicit drug trafficking, including laundering of illicit proceeds. To that end, innovative approaches, best practices and lessons learned in the design, planning and implementation of alternative development programmes will be identified and disseminated, tailored to local conditions, and training will be provided as required. Furthermore, experimental and model programmes and projects that could be adapted to different circumstances will be elaborated, with a view to eradicating illicit crops through alternative development, identifying and suppressing illicit drug trafficking and preventing the laundering of illicit proceeds. International cooperation to exchange information on effective countermeasures will be improved at the subregional, regional and global levels. The Programme's information base on national drug control legislation will be expanded and improved, and collaboration among Governments in the legal field, including cooperation to suppress illicit traffic by sea, will be facilitated;

(f) To increase the number and effectiveness of national strategies and programmes for the elimination of illicit crops, including national plans for alternative development, establishing or strengthening appropriate institutions at the national and local level, as well as suitable legal, economic and social frameworks. To that end, the concerned national institutions in the countries most affected will be strengthened, enabling them to elaborate, implement, monitor and evaluate integrated national programmes designed to eliminate illicit crops through alternative development and other modalities. Concerned States will be assisted in securing adequate financial and technical assistance and support for their alternative development programmes and projects, in particular from the international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, relevant United Nations organizations and the private sector. Networks will be established and periodic exchange of information on illicit crop reduction will take place at the subregional level;

(g) To support Governments in increasing the effectiveness of national action against illicit drug trafficking. To that end, Governments will be assisted to enhance judicial cooperation to deal with criminal organizations involved in drug offences and related criminal activities and to apprehend international drug traffickers through the promotion of multilateral, regional and subregional judicial cooperation and the provision of advice, assistance and training. They will also be assisted to adopt and implement national drug control legislation in an effective manner; to prevent and detect illicit trafficking of precursors and drugs, in particular heroin, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants, and to detect and prevent money laundering. National drug analysis and pharmaceutical control laboratories will be strengthened and provided with required technical and scientific information. Collaboration among law enforcement training providers will be improved at the national and international levels.

Legislative mandates

All the conventions, declarations and resolutions cited below contain mandates for the four subprogrammes and could therefore be included under each subprogramme. To avoid repetition, however, these mandates have been referred to as a group, and only those mandates of particular relevance to specific subprogrammes have been cited under individual headings.

Conventions and conference declarations

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol

Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

Political Declaration and the Comprehensive and Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held from 17 to 26 June 1987

General Assembly resolutions

46/102	Implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
47/97	Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
47/101	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
48/12	Measures to strengthen international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities
51/64	International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking
52/92	International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking
S-20/2	Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session devoted to countering the world drug problem together
S-20/3	Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction
S-20/4	Measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1994/3	Development of information systems on drugs and their abuse
1996/17	Special session of the General Assembly devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities

Subprogramme 13.1 Coordination and promotion of international drug control

General Assembly resolution

47/100	Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances: action by agencies of the United Nations system

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/43	Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control
1995/16	Integration of demand reduction initiatives into a cohesive strategy to combat drug abuse

1995/17	Enhanced regional cooperation to reduce the risks of drug abuse
1995/18	Promoting the use of memoranda of understanding to facilitate cooperation between customs authorities and other competent administrations and the international trading community, including commercial carriers

Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions

4 (XXXVII)	Monitoring of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action
7 (XXXVII)	Role of the International Narcotics Control Board
11 (XXXVIII)	Improvements in the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control
2 (XXXIX)	Promoting projects and programmes that use involvement in sports as an effective measure to prevent drug abuse
5 (XXXIX)	Encouragement of each Member State to require the establishment by banks and other financial institutions of customer identification policies and to broaden anti-money-laundering measures, and of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to strengthen cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force
9 (XXXIX)	Measures to enhance subregional, regional and global cooperation in drug control in western and central Asia

Subprogramme 13.2 International drug control monitoring and policy-making

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/38	Measures to prevent substances listed in Schedules III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 from being diverted from international trade into illicit channels
1993/39	Control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
1993/40	Implementation of measures to prevent the diversion of precursor and essential chemicals to illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
1994/4	Encouraging States to detect the use of trade channels for illicit consignments at all stages of movement and promoting the use of advice and technical expertise provided by the Customs Cooperation Council and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme
1995/18	Promoting the use of memoranda of understanding to facilitate cooperation between customs authorities and other competent administrations and the international trading community, including commercial carriers
1995/20	Measures to strengthen international cooperation to prevent diversion of substances listed in table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and

	Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and used in the illicit manufacture of stimulants and other psychotropic substances
1996/19	Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs
1996/20	Strengthening of the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and development of a unified information system for the collection and analysis of data concerning the nature, patterns and trends of the global problem of drug abuse
1996/29	Action to strengthen international cooperation to control precursors and their substitutes used in the illicit manufacture of controlled substances, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants, and to prevent their diversion
1996/30	Measures to combat diversion of psychotropic substances and to establish effective control over operations carried out by intermediaries in international trade in psychotropic substances

Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution

6 (XXXIX)	Consideration of national master plans

Subprogramme 13.3 Demand reduction: prevention and reduction of drug abuse

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/35	Demand reduction as part of balanced national strategic plans to combat drug abuse
1995/16	Integration of demand reduction initiatives into a cohesive strategy to combat drug abuse
1996/18	Draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction

Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions

4 (XXXIX)	Establishment of a regional mechanism for the exchange of information, experience, training and ideas on demand reduction
5 (XL)	Analysis of regional and global demand reduction strategies

Subprogramme 13.4 Supply reduction: elimination of illicit crops and suppression of illicit drug trafficking

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/36	Frequency of and arrangements for meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
1993/42	Measures to assist in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988
1997/41	Implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions

5 (XXXVI)	Coordinated action against money laundering with particular reference to control of proceeds from illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
5 (XXXVII)	Money laundering and control of proceeds from illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
5 (XXXVIII)	Strategies for illicit supply reduction
9 (XXXVIII)	Operational measures to ensure and strengthen cooperation between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat
12 (XXXVIII)	Scientific and technical cooperation in the control of drug abuse and illicit trafficking
5 (XXXIX)	Encouragement of each Member State to require the establishment by banks and other financial institutions of customer identification policies and to broaden anti-money-laundering measures, and of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to strengthen cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force
9 (XXXIX)	Measures to enhance subregional, regional and global cooperation in drug control in western and central Asia
2 (XL)	Development and implementation of domestic legislation to strengthen justice systems and ensure compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 relating to law enforcement and judicial cooperation
4 (XL)	Pilot maritime drug law enforcement project of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

14.1 The overall orientation of this programme is to promote economic and social development in Africa. ECA, which is responsible for the implementation of the programme, will seek to achieve this objective mainly through advocacy for policy measures and actions for adoption by African countries as well as the international community.

14.2 The mandate of the programme derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV), by which the Commission was entrusted with the responsibility, among other things, to initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted actions for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories of Africa, both among themselves and with other countries of the world. This has been further elaborated in a number of subsequent General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Commission resolutions.

14.3 The broad approach to be followed will focus on the following seven areas: (a) facilitating economic and social policy analysis; (b) ensuring food security and sustainable development; (c) strengthening development management; (d) harnessing information for development; and (e) promoting regional cooperation and integration; (f) promoting the advancement of women; and (g) supporting subregional activities for development. Two cross-cutting programme considerations will underpin the seven areas. These are gender mainstreaming and capacity-building.

14.4 Gender will become a cross-cutting theme in all of the Commission's programme strategies. This is not merely a matter of justice but of choosing more effective development strategies. The second cross-cutting theme - capacity-building - is recognized as an important missing link in Africa's development. Several activities that will be undertaken in the different areas will be directed at supporting the efforts of member States in building human, institutional and infrastructural capacities. The renewed emphasis on capacity-building and utilization in the Commission's work stems from the recognition that lack of critical capacities is a major contributory factor to Africa's persistent poor economic performance.

14.5 By the end of the period covered by the plan, the programme is expected to enhance significantly the capacity of member States individually and collectively for effective policy formulation and implementation that would enable them to address the development challenges facing them.

Subprogramme 14.1 Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

14.6 There is now much wider recognition that the true measure of economic development is in the social progress that it generates. Indeed, the strategy that has proved most effective in improving economic and social well-being has consisted of three elements: (a) fostering growth that increases the use of labour - the biggest asset of the poor; (b) investments in education and health; and (c) assistance to the poor.

14.7 The main objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Economic and Social Policy Analysis Division is responsible, are as follows:

(a) To increase the capacity of member States to take appropriate measures to respond to the emerging regional and global developments of significance to Africa's economic and social development. In this regard, the results of the research and policy analysis on the performance of the African economy and on a wide range of micro- and macroeconomic as well as on international economic policy issues will serve as a basis for policy dialogue with and advice to African policy makers. ECA will also enhance its role as the regional clearinghouse in order to spread lessons drawn from best practices within the region. Furthermore, ECA will canvass existing capacities within and outside the region so as to provide intellectual support to member States to enable them to pursue development initiatives;

(b) To promote higher education reforms. Tertiary educational institutions, mainly the universities in Africa, are in severe crisis. They are underfunded and the quality of learning has deteriorated. There is a huge outflow of skilled teachers to the private sector or to foreign countries. Consequently, these institutions are not able to fulfil their main mission, which is to serve as centres of research and training. Special efforts will also be devoted to exploiting information technology to disseminate ECA information resources and those of other institutions to alleviate the problem of shortages of instructional materials in African universities;

(c) With regard to the fight against poverty, ECA activities, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, will aim at reinforcing the actions of Governments by analysing the causes of success and failures noted;

(d) To monitor the implementation of international initiatives and programmes dedicated to or relevant to Africa's development, including the recently launched United Nations system Special Initiative on Africa.

Subprogramme 14.2 Enhancing food security and sustainable development

14.8 No cluster of issues has eluded effective public policy in Africa as much as those interlinking food security, population and environmental degradation. Mainly as a result of a high rate of population growth and environmental degradation, food production per capita in Africa has been declining over the past three decades. Survival and the quality of life in Africa will only be guaranteed if the forces that shape the food-population-environment equation are properly understood and managed. There is both a need, therefore, for strong dialogue on these issues in each African country and for strengthening the capacity of African Governments to manage this equation effectively.

14.9 One objective of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the Food and Sustainable Development Division, will be to enhance locally based analytical capabilities for national policy-making and implementation in the areas of food security, population growth and environmental management. In addition, the secretariat will facilitate the adoption of appropriate macroeconomic measures to promote socially acceptable, economically viable and environmentally sustainable development.

14.10 Africa has several environmental problems. Desertification is accelerating. Deforestation is increasing as more people rely on wood for fuel. Urbanization is exacerbating pollution in cities. Recurring cycles of drought in parts of Africa threaten sustainable livelihoods in environmentally marginal areas. Policy measures to overcome various forms of environmental degradation have been articulated in many international environmental conventions and programmes. Another objective of this subprogramme will therefore be to strengthen the decision-making, legal and institutional capacities of African Governments to facilitate the implementation of conventions on sustainable development related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, among others.

14.11 Water is increasingly becoming a problematic derivative of the food-population-environment equation in many parts of Africa. Competition for water is also growing with the acceleration of urbanization. Increasing the reliability of water supply is key to increasing food and agricultural production in Africa. To that end, the secretariat will provide technical support to member States sharing common water resources to work out agreements and to establish mechanisms for the effective and sustainable management of such resources. Similar support will also be provided to Governments in their efforts to strengthen arrangements for the development of inter-State lake and river basins in Africa.

14.12 Human settlements and the issues of food, population and environment are intricately linked. In this regard, the subprogramme will aim at strengthening the policy-making capacity of African countries in human settlement issues and in so doing help in managing those complex linkages.

14.13 In the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development (1992), African Governments for the first time adopted quantitative demographic targets to be reached by countries of the region between 2000 and 2010 in terms of reducing annual population growth rate and mortality rates (infant, childhood and maternal) and increasing life expectancy and contraceptive prevalence rate. Thus, another objective of this subprogramme will be to support African countries to implement measures and actions to strengthen their population policies. In so doing, the secretariat will also highlight best practices.

14.14 Progress in the implementation of population and environmentally sustainable agricultural policies will depend crucially on women's response to policy measures being fostered in those areas. The objective in this context is to assist member States to implement measures that would increase awareness of and acceptance by women of policy measures in the food-population-environment equation.

14.15 Building an endogenous scientific and technological capability has long been recognized as vital in addressing Africa's development, in particular the issues related to the various aspects of the food-population-environment equation. In this regard, the secretariat will assist member States to promote the application of science and technology in dealing with issues of food security and environmental management.

Subprogramme 14.3 Strengthening development management

14.16 Promoting development involves a partnership among the public and private sectors and voluntary organizations. Strengthening the managerial and institutional capacity of those sectors is essential to enhancing their role in development.

14.17 Effective public sector management is key to sustained growth and development. This requires a competent, accountable and responsive public service. Strengthening institutions of accountability will be one of the objectives of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the Development Management Division. This will require the creation of civil society organs in member States that would ensure that public officials - both elected and appointed - uphold and adhere to ethical standards of public service. The second objective is strengthening of the civil service systems. This will involve assisting member States to develop standards and indicators for monitoring civil service performance. The third objective will be promoting decentralization of administrative power aiming at strengthening the leadership and capacity of institutions of local governance.

14.18 Under private sector development, one area of focus will be strengthening micro- and informal sector enterprises, which are the main sources of employment and income in a number of African countries. Two objectives will be pursued:

(a) Assistance to Governments to improve incentive frameworks for those enterprises and to help them to form associations through which they can articulate their needs and also improve their management capacities. Particular emphasis will be given to improving access of women to credit to develop enterprises;

(b) Creation of an enabling environment for private sector-led development through assistance to Governments to reform their regulatory frameworks, which are so vital for private sector operations.

14.19 Progress has been made in fostering the notion of popular participation, as articulated in the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. As democratic systems of governance take hold in Africa, civil society groups are growing in number and importance and are increasingly influencing a wide range of public policies. The objective is to strengthen the capacity of civil society groups for analysis and effective advocacy on public policy.

14.20 Government and the private sector have mutually reinforcing roles to play in accelerating the pace of industrialization in Africa. The General Assembly has proclaimed two industrial development decades in Africa. The Second United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa covers the period 1993-2002. The objectives to be pursued include:

(a) The enhancement of industrial competitiveness of member States and the building and strengthening of technical skills;

(b) Assistance to member States to enable them to develop their industrial manpower, including ensuring the viability and sustainability of selected regional technical institutes.

14.21 South-South cooperation is an important vehicle for strengthening private sector development. One objective in this area would be to devise mechanisms that would enable African countries to benefit from the experience of but also attract investments from other developing regions. Assisting member States to develop their financial and capital markets will therefore be an important element in the effort to attract significant flows of investment resources into Africa.

Subprogramme 14.4 Harnessing information for development

14.22 Information is becoming as important a resource for production as land and human and financial capital. As with other resources, so comes value added with processing information, which is harnessed increasingly by technology. Timely and reliable information and data are vital for economic policy-making in the public sector and for business decisions by private economic agents. Lower-cost informatics technologies alone could revolutionize education, marketing and hundreds of other applications. Africa will not have to make costly investments in older technologies as did other regions before investing in lower-cost technologies. Africa needs to develop the capacity to tap into the global system of information and knowledge and adapt them to solve its problems, including data management. The Development Information Services Division is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme.

14.23 With regard to the development information system, the objectives will be:

(a) Promotion of the development of information infrastructure by encouraging member States to enter into policy dialogue with a view to addressing issues of computer networking, regulatory and pricing policy, including taxes;

(b) Strengthening the capacity to organize and disseminate Africa's development information on the Internet, as well as making the resources of the ECA library accessible to the African academic community, policy makers and research institutions through electronic connectivity.

14.24 In the area of statistical development, the objectives will be the development and maintenance of regional databases for economic, social, demographic and environmental statistics, and strengthening the capacity of member States to improve their national statistical systems in line with the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s.

Subprogramme 14.5 Promoting regional cooperation and integration

14.25 The entry into force of the Abuja Treaty on the establishment of the African Economic Community provides a major impetus for the work of ECA in the area of regional cooperation.

14.26 Strengthening of subregional organizations is the main task envisaged in the first five years of the Abuja Treaty. The objectives of the Commission are to enhance the institutional capacities of the subregional organizations in consolidating their integration, rationalizing the myriad of organizations dedicated to integration within each subregion and accelerating the process of cross-border liberalization and harmonization in trade, investment and monetary and fiscal policies.

14.27 ECA support for sectoral activities in the various subregional groupings during the period 1998-2001 will be based on and consistent with the priorities that have been defined by member States. Major efforts will be needed from member States to ensure that the subregional organizations have predictable and assured financial resources for their operations. To that end, the subprogramme will promote self-financing mechanisms for the subregional economic groupings.

14.28 The development of infrastructures is essential to linking economic spaces in the integration process. The objective in this area will be to assist African countries to implement the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000. The subprogramme will concentrate on four key areas, namely, human resource development, institutional development, regional transport and communications linkages and facilitation, and a transport and communications database.

14.29 Mineral and energy resource development is one area that is particularly suitable for regional cooperation. Intercountry cooperation in the areas of electric power and gas has begun to emerge in Africa. This needs to be more widespread. The objective will be to foster such a pattern by facilitating private sector initiatives as well as necessary government interventions.

14.30 The Economic Cooperation and Integration Division is responsible for the implementation of this subprogramme.

Subprogramme 14.6 Promoting the advancement of women

14.31 The overall goal of the subprogramme, for which the African Centre for Women is responsible, is to improve the economic, social and legal condition of women. More specific objectives include:

(a) Enhancing the leadership role of women in decision-making in both the public and private sectors, in rural and urban communities;

(b) Promoting the economic and social empowerment of women as well as their legal and human rights;

(c) Enhancing access of women to education, including science and technology, and to health care, including reproductive, maternal and child health care;

(d) Promoting employment and income-generating opportunities for women.

14.32 These objectives will be attained through awareness-raising, research and technical assistance, including facilitating networking and dialogue among policy makers and community, business and women leaders and associations. Emphasis will be placed on the promotion of policies and strategies as well as the development and implementation, in collaboration with relevant national, regional and international institutions, of projects in research and training for the advancement of women. The activities also include monitoring the implementation of regional and global plans of action, more particularly the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and the African Common Position for the Advancement of Women.

14.33 By the end of the medium-term plan period it is expected that the activities carried out under the subprogramme will have resulted in strengthening national mechanisms for the implementation of the regional and global platforms of action; increased the number of member States that will have reviewed and enhanced their laws protecting women's legal and human rights as well as appointed women into senior policy positions in the public sector; inspired the establishment or strengthening of women's organizations and associations dedicated to eliminating cultural and social barriers to the advancement of women; and increased the network of the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, established on the initiative of ECA, as a vehicle for the economic empowerment of women in Africa.

Subprogramme 14.7 Supporting subregional activities for development

14.34 The Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development Planning, at its most recent session, renamed the multinational programming and operational centres "subregional development centres" and decided that ECA should re-orient the subregional development centres as centres of excellence with a view to strengthening and focusing their work on development priorities specific to each subregion. The centres are, therefore, to function as a forum for exchange of experience and information and provision of support for the implementation of regional economic integration and to enhance the Commission's presence at the subregional and country levels.

14.35 Commission resolution 810 (XXXI) gave ECA the mandate not only to ensure that the centres play their role more efficiently but also to enable them to focus more on specific subregional priorities. In line with that mandate, the centres will undertake to implement in their respective subregions aspects of the subprogramme tailored specifically to the priorities and circumstances of individual subregions. This will result in greater recognition of the role and responsibility of each subregional development centre in the implementation of the ECA programme of work and in making each centre directly accountable for resources allocated to it and the results to be achieved.

14.36 The goals of the subprogramme, for which the subregional development centres will be individually responsible, are:

(a) To strengthen the operational outreach of ECA at the country and subregional levels; to increase the leverage of the Commission's resources; and to ensure harmony between subregional and regional programme operations and those defined by the strategic directions of the Commission;

(b) To develop programmes of activities that respond creatively to the needs of member States and non-governmental and private sector organizations in the subregion;

(c) To promote gender mainstreaming in all relevant activities;

(d) To enhance the dissemination and outreach of the Commission's policy recommendations, information and technical publications.

14.37 These goals will be achieved through close cooperation between this subprogramme and other subprogrammes, in particular subprogramme 14.5, Promoting regional cooperation and integration, so as to take full advantage of the synergy between the various subprogrammes and the complementarities in the activities carried out by the Commission as a whole. Activities will include the provision of advisory services to member States, regional economic communities and subregional development operators; organizing public forums; and improved networking and communications. Efforts will be made to strengthen collaboration between subregional intergovernmental organizations of subregional development centres, bilateral organizations and United Nations system agencies operating within the respective subregions.

14.38 By the end of the plan period, it is expected that the activities under this subprogramme will have contributed to the strengthening of the capacities of regional economic communities; expanding the network of the development communities that use the Commission's services; and increasing the scope and forums for policy dialogue and the sharing of experience on development issues at the subregional level.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 14.1 Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

General Assembly resolutions

45/194	Economic stabilization programmes in developing countries
46/167	Women, environment, population and sustainable development
49/122	Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
50/103	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
50/105	Developing human resources for development
50/107	Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

713 (XXVI)-1991	The African social situation
735 (XXVII)-1992	Short-term forecasting in Africa
740 (XXVII)-1992	Human resources planning, development and utilization in Africa
746 (XXVIII)-1994	Human Development Agenda for Africa in the 1990s
792 (XXIX)-1994	An integrated approach to women's empowerment: The Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace; violation of women's human rights; and women's economic empowerment
797 (XXX)-1995	Accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action in the African least developed countries during the second half of the 1990s
802 (XXX)-1995	African Platform for Action: African common position for the advancement of women

Subprogramme 14.2 Enhancing food security and sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

49/103	Food and agriculture development
50/112	Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa
50/124	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
50/126	Water supply and sanitation

Economic and Social Council resolution

1991/85	Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

744 (XXVIII)-1993	African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21
748 (XXVIII)-1993	Population, family and sustainable development
801 (XXX)-1995	Food security and self-sufficiency in Africa

Subprogramme 14.3 Strengthening development management

General Assembly resolutions

46/155	Report of the South Commission
48/180	Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development
49/136	Public administration and development
50/94	Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countrie and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

691 (XXV)-1990	The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation
697 (XXV)-1990	Improvement of the role of women in the informal sector: Production and management
736 (XXVII)-1992	Women and access to resources in the 1990s
747 (XXVIII)-1993	Strategic Agenda for Development Management in Africa in the 1990s
781 (XXIX)-1994	Development of the private sector for the accelerated implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and Beyond

782 (XXIX)-1994	Development of basic industries for the structural transformation of African economies
798 (XXX)	Promotion of private investment in Africa

Subprogramme 14.4 Harnessing information for development

General Assembly resolution

50/130	Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
1995/61	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

679 (XXV)-1990	Improving information flows in the African region
734 (XXVIII)-1992	Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s
766 (XXVIII)-1993	Strengthening development information systems for regional cooperation and integration in Africa
789 (XXIX)-1994	Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development
795 (XXX)	Building Africa's information highway

Subprogramme 14.5 Promoting regional cooperation and integration

General Assembly resolutions

45/209	Development of the energy resources of developing countries
46/145	Regional economic integration among developing countries
48/172	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
49/99	International trade and development
50/101	Science and technology for development
50/102	United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1991/83	Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
1991/86	Development and efficient use of energy resources

1993/72	Science and technology for sustainable development
1994/39	Development and strengthening of the programme activities of the Economic Commission for Africa in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

693 (XXV)-1990	Proposal for interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of EDIFACT whenever appropriate
730 (XXVIII)-1992	The role of indigenous banking and financial institutions in the mobilization of financial resources for development
743 (XXVII)-1993	Implementation of the Abuja Treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community
785 (XXIX)-1994	Promotion and expansion of intra-African trade
787 (XXIX)-1994	Science and technology for development
800 (XXX)-1995	Strategy and Action Plan for Water Resources Assessment, Development and Management in Africa

Subprogramme 14.6 Promoting the advancement of women

General Assembly resolutions

50/203 and 52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action
52/195	Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolution

1997/17	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

824 (XXI)	Follow-up to the Dakar and Beijing conferences: implementation of the global regional platforms for action for the advancement of women
792 (XXIX)	An integrated approach to women's empowerment: the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace; violation of women's human rights; and women's economic empowerment

802 (XXX)	African Platform for Action: African Common Position on the Advancement of Women

Subprogramme 14.7 Supporting subregional activities for development

General Assembly resolution

52/205	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

810 (XXXI)	Strengthening of the multinational programming and operational centres
828 (XXXII)	The multinational programming and operational centres: strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa's subregional presence

PROGRAMME 15. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

15.1 The mandate of the programme derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV) and 414 (XIII), which established the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The mandate has been further elaborated in a number of General Assembly and Council resolutions adopted since, as well as in Commission resolutions, in particular 47/3, 48/2 and 53/1.

15.2 The Asia and Pacific region is a most economically dynamic region, but not all the countries have been able to enjoy the benefits of the growing prosperity sweeping the region. While individual countries' priorities and policies may vary, there exists the common goal of sustainable economic growth coupled with a focus on poverty alleviation. Against that backdrop, the overall orientation of the programme for which ESCAP is responsible is to heighten the awareness of member countries to the changes taking place, to assist those which are developing rapidly to do so in a non-destructive and beneficial way and, more important, to help the poorest countries improve opportunities for employment and economic growth so that progress can be shared equitably by all. The programme will also identify key problem areas that each subregional grouping in the region is facing and develop and implement regional programmes in cooperation with United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, as well as regional intergovernmental organizations, to give tangible assistance to the developing countries in their economic and social development.

15.3 The Commission will continue to focus on three major themes, namely: (a) regional economic cooperation, with particular reference to the role of macroeconomic variables, trade and investment, industry and technology transfer, giving priority to addressing the short- and longer-term impact on economic development in the South-East and East Asian countries affected by the economic crisis and the effects of the crisis on the region as a whole; (b) environment and sustainable development that seeks to contain environmental degradation and emphasizes sound management and sustainable use of non-renewable resources; and (c) poverty alleviation through economic growth, creation of job opportunities and social development, with emphasis on human resources development and the provision of social services to the people of the region, in particular women, youth, the elderly and the disabled. The Commission will also pursue the implementation of programmes to improve intraregional and interregional infrastructure facilities and services to enhance international trade and tourism, improve the quality of life and strengthen the capacity of countries in the region to develop sustained statistical capacities for informed policy-making, planning and programme implementation. In that connection, the Commission will give priority to assisting the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries whose economic growth achievements remain well below the regional average and the Central Asian republics whose achievements, though improving, remain negative, with the goal of narrowing the disparity in economic growth between those countries and the emerging economies in the region. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as well as the subregional groupings will be further promoted.

15.4 The Commission's secretariat will continue its lead role in organizing meetings of heads of subregional organizations and in attaining a unified and effective United Nations system-wide approach to regional development through the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific and its subcommittees. It will emphasize South-South cooperation, including the triangular modality of collaboration, to guide specific activities in achieving the objectives of the various subprogrammes.

15.5 During 1996-1997, ESCAP conducted reviews of the thematic orientation of the intergovernmental structures and programmes of the Commission that were introduced in 1994. At its fifty-third session (in April 1997), the Commission recognized that the advantages of the thematic approach outweighed the disadvantages, and considered that a process of evolution was preferable to any radical change and that the right approach would be to consolidate the gains wherever they had been made and to make the necessary changes in the case of those committees and subprogrammes where some reordering of programme areas or a clearer expression of focus could be advantageous. That was particularly felt with respect to the themes relating to poverty alleviation and environment and sustainable development. The Commission decided to retain the five-committee structure with changes as follows: (a) three thematic committees, namely, the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group, the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development; and (b) two other committees, namely, the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development and the Committee on Statistics. The Commission also decided to retain the two special bodies, on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

15.6 The Commission considered that the revised programme structure proposed below would be the most appropriate for carrying out the programme of work efficiently:

Subprogramme 1.	Regional economic cooperation
Subprogramme 2.	Development research and policy analysis
Subprogramme 3.	Social development
Subprogramme 4.	Population and rural and urban development
Subprogramme 5.	Environment and natural resources development
Subprogramme 6.	Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development
Subprogramme 7.	Statistics

15.7 Under the revised programme structure, two subprogrammes, regional economic cooperation: trade and investment and regional economic cooperation: industry and technology, are merged. The new subprogramme seeks to strengthen regional economic cooperation in the promotion of trade, investment and technology linkages, and the acceleration of industrial development. Three subprogrammes relating to poverty alleviation are restructured into two subprogrammes, one to deal with social development issues and concerns, human resources development and women in development, with specific reference to the alleviation of poverty, and the other to address social and economic issues in the areas of population and rural and urban development that are directly related to the alleviation of poverty. The objectives to be achieved through the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), originally under the subprogramme on environment and sustainable development, are shifted to the subprogramme on social development and to the subprogramme on population and rural and urban development, as appropriate, in accordance with the terms of reference of the relevant legislative committees. The revised programme structure is in conformity with the revised conference structure mandated by the Commission.

15.8 The discontinuation of a separate subprogramme on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries does not imply that less pre-eminence is accorded to their needs and concerns. Work for these groups of countries will continue to be given high priority and will be mainstreamed into the work of all the subprogrammes. The implementation of activities will be undertaken under the respective subprogrammes. In addition to its own activities in respect of these countries, under subprogramme 2, the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division assumes overall monitoring and coordination responsibilities for activities related to these countries carried out under the other subprogrammes. Furthermore, a gender perspective has been integrated into the mainstream of all relevant areas of work of ESCAP in compliance with the directives of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The implementation of activities relating to gender issues will be coordinated by the Social Development Division under subprogramme 3.

15.9 By the end of the period covered by the plan, it is expected that the programme will have:

(a) Gained the active and wider participation of the countries in the region in the development and implementation of regional programmes as mandated by the Commission;

(b) Accelerated follow-up to global conferences at the national level supported by the subregional and regional operational activities of ESCAP;

(c) Provided the essential regional link between the global and country levels of economic and social development programmes that would build up country-level capacity for development;

(d) Facilitated the sharing of experiences among countries at varying levels of development;

(e) Maximized the Commission's comparative advantage as a centre for policy research, analysis and information for the benefit of its member Governments;

(f) Completed analysis of the origins and effects of the current economic and monetary turmoil and formulated recommendations on ways and means for economies to avail themselves of international capital flows, while minimizing the attendant risks.

Subprogramme 15.1 Regional economic cooperation

15.10 The convergence of macroeconomic policies with increasing dependence on outward-oriented development strategies, reinforced by an intensifying trend towards liberalization across the region, revalidates the rationale and widens the scope for economic cooperation in a region characterized by diversity and disparity in the levels of development. The subprogramme will seek to strengthen regional and subregional economic cooperation for promoting trade, investment and technology linkages and accelerating industrial development. High priority will be accorded to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the countries with economies in transition, to facilitate their integration into the mainstream of the region's dynamic growth in trade, investment and technology flows.

15.11 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme for which the Trade and Industry Division is responsible are:

(a) To enhance the national capacity of developing countries to respond effectively to challenges and opportunities emerging from the global trading and investment environment;

(b) To assist the developing countries, with particular attention to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to accelerate their industrial and technological development and to promote their exports, inter alia, through human resource development and enhancement of the role of the private sector;

(c) To enhance regional cooperation to promote trade efficiency and electronic commerce and to facilitate access to information technology;

(d) To strengthen policy and institutional support for the development of export-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises and the advancement of women entrepreneurs;

(e) To enhance flows of trade, investment and technology within the region and between subregions, through, among other things, strengthening networks of institutional support services, including regional information services.

Subprogramme 15.2 Development research and policy analysis

15.12 The convergence of macroeconomic policies observed in recent years has been fostered by a marked trend towards deregulation, liberalization and structural reform in most economies in the region. This has enabled them to forge closer links with the global economy, including in the area of financial flows, which offer them opportunities and challenges for achieving sustained economic growth, equitable distribution and poverty alleviation. One of the greatest challenges that the countries face is that of coping with the potential instability caused by external shocks in an increasingly open economic environment. The interactions between domestic economic policies and increasing openness and their joint impact on sustained economic growth, poverty, income distribution and environmental issues are often inadequately understood. Countries of the region have expressed a strong desire to cooperate with each other in sharing experiences in practices and policies to tackle these common issues. In addition, the countries of the region have acknowledged a widening degree of complementarity among their economies with intent to exploit this to their mutual benefit through various forms of regional cooperation, including the streamlining of national economic policies and their harmonization wherever possible.

15.13 However, the large number of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries in the region face serious structural and institutional constraints in fully reaping the benefits from domestic policy reforms, increasing openness and greater regional cooperation. The constraints include low rates of savings and investment, high dependence on a few products for export, inadequate infrastructure and shortage of skills and trained manpower. Low administrative capacities and other institutional constraints have limited their ability to implement their reform programmes. Moreover, the island developing countries encounter special difficulties, including geographic isolation and fragmentation, shortage of land-based resources and diseconomies of scale, resulting in high costs of infrastructure, investment and production, while the landlocked countries face transit and transport problems that impede their growth.

15.14 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division, in cooperation with the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, is responsible, are:

(a) To increase understanding of the economic and social development situation in the region, to highlight trends and emerging problems and to draw the attention of policy makers to priority concerns;

(b) To contribute to the awareness and understanding on the part of national policy makers of the possibilities for and constraints vis-à-vis the implementation and management of macroeconomic policies conducive to sustained economic growth, poverty alleviation and the integration of environmental concerns into macroeconomic decision-making and policy-making processes;

(c) To enhance the understanding of policy makers of financial and macroeconomic instability arising from external shocks and to assist in strengthening institutions and policies to cope with such instability;

(d) To strengthen the institutional capacity for achieving sound economic governance in countries of the region consonant with their increasing exposure to the global economy, in particular in the area of finance;

(e) To advocate those policies which promote regional cooperation in economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific on the basis of shared experiences and the growing complementarities among economies of the region;

(f) To strengthen national capacities in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries in areas related to flows of official development assistance, external debt and implementation of regional and global mandates aimed at the improvement of their economic and social condition, including the realization of key objectives of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and any successor programme; and for island developing countries, to enhance the capacity of Governments to analyse, devise policies for and build machinery for the effective implementation of measures identified at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(g) To meet the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and economies in transition in the areas of macroeconomic reforms, policy management and resource mobilization and use through the provision of analysis, technical assistance and advisory services;

(h) To enhance human resources development in the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the economies in transition, especially developing the skills of public officials, in particular in the areas of macroeconomic policy formulation, appraisal and management of development projects and sectoral areas of priority interest to the countries concerned.

Subprogramme 15.3 Social development

15.15 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Social Development Division is responsible, are:

(a) To enhance region-wide awareness of critical social development, human resources development and women in development issues, with specific reference to poverty alleviation;

(b) To promote the formulation and implementation of effective social policies, plans and programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, strengthening family support and enhancing the quality of life of all social groups, including women, youth, older persons and disabled persons, and pursuing vigorous development of the region's human resources endowment;

(c) To strengthen national capabilities to implement at the regional level the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (1995); the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1997); the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1994); the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1997); the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing (1992); the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific (1994); and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995);

(d) To promote partnership and cooperation among Governments and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in planning and implementing social development, human resources development and women in development policies, plans and programmes;

(e) To promote the empowerment of social groups, in particular women, youth, older persons and disabled persons, through such means as increased equality in the access to productive resources and social services, and promotion of legislation on equal opportunities and full participation in development;

(f) To promote inter-agency cooperation and joint action on social issues related to poverty alleviation, human resources development, women in development, youth development, older persons, disabled persons, drug demand reduction and prevention of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

15.16 In the implementation of work to achieve the above objectives, special attention will be paid to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as to the economies in transition.

Subprogramme 15.4 Population and rural and urban development

15.17 The subprogramme will focus, inter alia, on: (a) the identification and understanding of social and economic issues in the areas of population and rural and urban development that are directly related to the alleviation of poverty; (b) advocacy to increase the awareness of the critical issues in population and rural and urban development among policy makers, civil society and individuals; and (c) the development of appropriate population, rural and urban strategies and policies to improve the quality of life of the poor. Priority will be accorded to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, specifically those relating to sustainable rural development.

15.18 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division is responsible, are:

(a) To increase the understanding of the complex interrelationships involved in population and rural and urban development, with special emphasis on the rural and urban poor, population and reproductive health dynamics, gender issues, migration, employment and production, and the environment;

(b) To strengthen the technical, managerial and organizational capacities of Governments at all levels to formulate integrated population, rural and urban development policies and programmes for alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life, taking into account the regional implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in 1994, and the recommendations of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of Governments and regional and international associations of local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and other regional or subregional groupings to develop regional human settlement plans of action addressing priority issues specific to the Asia and Pacific region as a follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(d) To increase and strengthen civil society partnerships with broad participation, by promoting participatory approaches at local, community and higher levels in dealing with population issues and rural and urban development;

(e) To promote economically and environmentally appropriate usage of technologies aimed at achieving sustainable agricultural and rural development;

(f) To improve the processing, management, communication and dissemination of population and rural and urban development data and information, particularly that required for advocacy within the civil society and for the formulation of effective poverty alleviation policies.

Subprogramme 15.5 Environment and natural resources development

15.19 The challenge for the region is to reverse the deteriorating environmental trends. The goal is to strengthen national capacities in achieving environmentally sound development and sustainable natural resources development and management. Focus will be on the regional and subregional strategies and action programmes that emerged from recent global conferences such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in 1992, and on the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, held in June 1997. At the same time, efforts will be made to integrate a gender perspective into the activities under the subprogramme. To that end, the objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Environment and Natural Resources Development Division is responsible, are:

(a) To promote integration of environmental considerations into social and economic decision-making at the national, subregional and regional levels; to assist Governments in strengthening capacities of national institutions for development and implementation of environmental policies and plans; and to promote increased roles of major groups and the private sector, as well as enhanced public awareness and participation, in environmental protection;

(b) To strengthen the capacity of Governments in formulating and implementing policies for the sustainable development and management of energy through sound choices of energy options, energy demand management, energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of new and renewable energy technologies;

(c) To facilitate a regional dialogue to promote regionally coordinated national energy plans in the context of overall economic development plans, through the periodic exchange of views and experience in the implementation of energy policies and plans on possible subregional energy/power networks and on common environmental protection initiatives;

(d) To strengthen the capacity of Governments in the formulation of policies and implementation of plans and programmes on assessment, integrated development and management and protection of water resources, and in implementation of innovative approaches for demand management and for efficient use of water;

(e) To facilitate regional cooperation in environmental management of mineral resource development and to strengthen national capabilities in the formulation of policies and strategies for the implementation of programmes for the development of mineral resources and investment promotion in the sector and for the application of geologic aspects in land use and urban planning;

(f) To promote regional cooperation on space technology applications and strengthen national capacities in the applications of remote sensing, the geographical information system and other spatial information technologies for natural resources management, environmental monitoring, disaster management and development planning;

(g) To promote the development, application and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for environmental protection and sustainable development of natural resources to contribute to the strengthening of national capacities in achieving sustainable development;

(h) To assist Governments in their efforts in water-related and geologic natural disaster reduction through promotion of prevention and preparedness measures, including risk analysis, structural and non-structural measures and hazard monitoring.

Subprogramme 15.6 Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

15.20 Although the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific has come to an end, the need to address in an effective manner the issue of inadequate and inefficient infrastructure facilities and services continues, as demonstrated by the Commission's adoption of the New Delhi Action Plan on infrastructure 1997-2006 in its resolution 51/8. The need to accord greater priority to tourism in the work of ESCAP was emphasized by the Commission at its fifty-first and fifty-second sessions. To that end, the objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division, are:

(a) To improve the planning process in developing infrastructure facilities and services at all levels and to improve the efficiency of their administration, management and operation in the countries of the region;

(b) To promote private sector participation in national infrastructure development through financing, management, operations and risk-sharing, with a view to developing the transport, communications, tourism and infrastructural aspects of electric power required to sustain the economic and social growth process;

(c) To promote the development of interregional and intraregional transport linkages to enhance international trade and tourism through the implementation of Commission resolutions 52/9 and 48/11, with emphasis on the integrated Asian land transport infrastructure development project comprising the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway projects, as well as land transport facilitation measures. The formulation of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks will be completed and action plans to improve efficiency of transport along those networks, with particular reference to landlocked and transit countries, will be formulated. The secretariat, in close cooperation with other international organizations, will also promote freight forwarding and multimodal transport to facilitate integrated land-cum-sea transport;

(d) To improve policies for planning tourism development, with a clear understanding of the economic impact of tourism; strengthen national capabilities in the development of human resources in the tourism sector and, in particular, tourism marketing; minimize the environmental impact of tourism; and promote tourism investment, facilitation of travel and regional and subregional cooperation in tourism development. The needs of Pacific island countries, least developed countries, economies in transition and countries in an early stage of tourism development will receive special attention;

(e) To increase safety and safe working practices in transport and communication operations and to reduce the adverse environmental impact of the provision of infrastructure facilities and services to acceptable levels. The secretariat will strengthen its assistance to member countries in promoting the safe transport of passengers and goods, in particular hazardous goods, while maintaining a clean environment, and in implementing environmental impact assessments in relation to infrastructure development and operation;

(f) To increase the participation of economically and socially disadvantaged groups and women, through the provision of and access to infrastructure facilities and services, with a view to making qualitative and quantitative improvements in their living standards. The secretariat will assist member countries in promoting more equitable spatial distribution of economic activities, providing easier access to social amenities, including education and health facilities, and generating employment opportunities.

Subprogramme 15.7 Statistics

15.21 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Statistics Division, are:

(a) To strengthen the capacity of the countries of the region in achieving or making further progress towards sustained national statistical capabilities for the purposes of informed policy-making, planning, programme implementation and monitoring of progress. Special efforts will be made to improve the statistical capability of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as economies in transition, to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize data needed for their economic and social development, thereby strengthening their information and statistical base. In the implementation of the subprogramme, greater recognition will be given to the growing competencies of the countries themselves in contributing to capability-building activities;

(b) To widen the scope and improve the accessibility and international comparability of the statistical information compiled and disseminated by the secretariat, taking into account user demands. To that end, the focus will be on greater use of electronic technology in the acquisition and provision of data and information and on reducing the response burden of countries;

(c) To strengthen the role of the countries of the region in the development of international standards, the use of improved methodology for data collection, processing and analysis, and the greater utilization of statistics. In line with the recommendations of the Statistical Commission, the secretariat will initiate and coordinate at the regional level the development, revision, testing and implementation of selected international statistical standards and, where necessary, their adaptation to meet the conditions and needs of the countries of the region;

(d) To enhance the understanding of the role of information technology and promote the applications of that technology, as well as information resource management in the region, especially in the public sector.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 15.1 Regional economic cooperation

General Assembly resolutions

50/101	Science and technology for development
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation
51/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
51/167	International trade and development
51/175	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
51/240	Agenda for Development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

47/2	Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific
48/1	Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation
48/8	Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region
49/3	Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific
50/8	Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia

50/9	Implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer
51/5	Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT)
51/6	Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century
52/10	Revised Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment
52/11	Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation among the south-western member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization

Subprogramme 15.2 Development research and policy analysis

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/194	Capacity-building for Agenda 21
51/240	Agenda for Development
S-19/2	Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Least developed countries

49/94	Enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries
50/103	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
51/164	Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

Landlocked developing countries

51/168	Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours
52/183	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

Island developing countries

49/122	Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

52/202	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

47/5	Regional support for the alleviation of poverty
48/1	Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation
48/5	Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond
48/8	Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region
51/4	Agenda for action on social development in the ESCAP region
51/6	Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century
52/8	Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

Least developed countries

49/8	Strengthening assistance to least developed countries

Island developing countries

48/9	Strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries

Subprogramme 15.3 Social development

General Assembly resolutions

49/162	Integration of older women in development
50/42	Fourth World Conference on Women
50/81	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/103	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
50/107	Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
50/144	Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/145	Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

51/65	Violence against women migrant workers
52/25	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
52/82	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century
52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
52/193	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
52/195	Women in development
52/196	Developing human resources for development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

47/5	Regional support for the alleviation of poverty
48/3	Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002
48/5	Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond
48/6	Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region
49/6	Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002
50/7	Update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region
51/2	Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific
51/4	Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region
51/7	Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific
51/10	Regional cooperation for the eradication of the demand for drugs subject to abuse and related problems
52/3	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
52/4	Promoting human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific
52/5	Regional cooperation in response to the spread and consequences of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the Asian and Pacific region

53/2	Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women
53/4	Elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 15.4 Population and rural and urban development

General Assembly resolutions

51/176	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
52/25	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
52/93	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
52/190	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

49/4	Population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century
50/3	Participatory human settlements development
52/6	Promotion of environmentally sound and healthy cities

Subprogramme 15.5 Environment and natural resources development

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/194	Capacity-building for Agenda 21
49/28	Law of the sea
50/117	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
51/123	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
S-19/2	Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21
52/198	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
52/202	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

45/5	Fulfilling the objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the ESCAP region
47/7	Integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific
47/8	Regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems
49/7	Implementation of decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and the Pacific
51/11	Regional cooperation on space applications for environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
51/12	Strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific
52/7	Transfer of environmentally sound technology
52/8	Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific
53/3	Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation

Subprogramme 15.6 Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

General Assembly resolutions

51/168	Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours
52/183	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries
52/187	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

48/1	Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation
48/6	Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP region
48/11	Road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures
49/7	Implementation of decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and the Pacific

50/8	Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia
51/6	Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century
51/8	Implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific
52/9	Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges

Subprogramme 15.7 Statistics

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
1995/7	2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

246 (XLII)	Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific

PROGRAMME 16. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE

16.1 The overall orientation of the programme, which is under the responsibility of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), is to strengthen the economic relations of the member countries, among themselves and with other countries of the world, by elaborating economic data and analysis, negotiating conventions, norms and guidelines, and enabling dialogue and exchange of information and experience. In that context, the integration efforts of countries with economies in transition into the European and global economies will be a priority. More diversified forms and methods of assistance to those countries must be developed: (a) to respond to their growing demand for policy analysis and guidelines; (b) to assist them to adhere to region-wide standards; (c) to improve their capacity to adopt legally binding instruments; and (d) to promote ways to develop their products to obtain access to and capture larger shares in Western markets.

16.2 More generally, assistance will be given to countries and groups of countries, at their request, by the regional advisers and through the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities. Renewed attention will be given to the reconstruction of war-torn areas and to cooperation with ECE member countries in the Mediterranean region, as well as neighbouring countries of the same region, where economic and social development will be essential to underpin the peace process in the Middle East and future cooperation between European and North African States in that area.

16.3 The mandate for the programme stems from Economic and Social Council resolution 36 (IV), whereby the Council established ECE and assigned to it responsibilities for coordination and promotion of international economic cooperation in Europe. The mandate of the programme was further elaborated in a number of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, as well as ECE resolutions and decisions, most recently, the Declaration on Strengthening Economic Cooperation in Europe and its annexed Plan of Action, both endorsed by the Council in its decision 1997/224.

16.4 The reform identified gender-mainstreaming as a cross-sectoral concern that is an integral part of the ECE strategic directions. Along that line, the Plan of Action stipulates that mainstreaming the gender perspective must permeate all ECE activities, and all principal subsidiary bodies will therefore take this into account when they prepare, adopt and implement their programmes of work.

16.5 By the end of the period covered by the medium-term plan, it is expected that ECE will have accomplished the following:

(a) Facilitated the participation of government officials, public and private entrepreneurs, non-governmental bodies and the academic community in the economic debate and the decision-making process through the provision of studies and policy analysis, as well as through its operational activities;

(b) Enhanced economic integration of the region and linkages with neighbouring countries or regions through the elaboration and dissemination of international conventions, agreements, norms and standards. In particular, ECE will continue to make the results of its work in norms, standards and guidelines available to the countries of other regions. In so doing, it will make full use of its cooperative undertakings with the other regional commissions and the global programmes of the Organization;

(c) Improved coordination with the secretariats of United Nations entities and non-United Nations regional bodies active in the region, such as the European Commission, OSCE, the Council of Europe, OECD, EBRD, CIS, the Central European Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Council of Baltic Ministers and the South-East European Cooperative Initiative;

(d) Strengthened involvement of the private sector in the work of ECE.

16.6 ECE is conscious of the need to achieve these goals with a high level of cost-effectiveness, comparable to that of other institutions active in the region. The secretariat, backed up by inputs from governmental experts, provides long-standing experience and expertise about the countries of the region, East and West. ECE remains the only pan-European neutral forum with the essential transatlantic link for the exchange of views on economic issues among Governments where all participate as full members and on an equal footing.

Subprogramme 16.1 Environment

16.7 The ultimate goal of the subprogramme is to reduce environmental loads throughout the region to levels that will not cause any significant harmful effects nor compromise environmental conditions for future generations. More specific objectives, to be pursued under the responsibility of the Environment and Human Settlements Division, are:

(a) To provide policy direction for the ECE region, in particular by furthering cooperative processes; extending national environmental performance reviews to the entire ECE region; and reporting the development of international environmental law, taking into special account the priority needs of the countries with economies in transition;

(b) To further the "Environment for Europe" process, including the preparation and follow-up to ministerial meetings within the region to review environmental priorities, and strive for coordination of national, subregional, regional and global environmental objectives. In that context, the subprogramme will also promote the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional level and contribute, as appropriate, to the reviews undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(c) To promote policy instruments for strengthening the capability of member countries to prevent and reverse environmental degradation by fully integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies;

(d) To facilitate the development of environmental law (conventions and related protocols) and promote the effective monitoring and improved implementation of and compliance with international legal instruments in the field of the environment;

(e) To strengthen the capacity of member countries, especially countries with economies in transition, to implement the regional environmental conventions and related protocols with a view to preventing, controlling and reducing adverse transboundary effects; to prevent and resolve related conflicts; to build institutional capacity and competence; to promote access to environmental information; to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making; to exchange expertise and to mobilize increased resources for the implementation of regional environmental legislation;

(f) To assist countries that are not members of OECD to examine their performance systematically and analytically in meeting domestic environmental policy objectives and relevant international commitments. This will be achieved by further developing, in cooperation with OECD, the environmental performance review programme;

(g) To assist countries with economies in transition, in their reform processes, to build and strengthen their capacities for environmental protection and sustainable development, and to assist them in their efforts to be integrated into a pan-European legal and economic space, in particular through regional advisory services;

(h) To facilitate the coordination of environment-related programmes in the region and cooperate closely with other United Nations bodies, relevant international organizations and institutions active in the region, as well as the relevant subregional governmental and non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations, inter alia, to extend their achievements and agreed practices to the region as a whole.

Subprogramme 16.2 Transport

16.8 The proper functioning of economic activities, the production and distribution of goods, and trade are heavily dependent upon the development of transport, including international transport. There is a need for coordinated action designed to achieve an efficient, coherent transport system in the region, based on principles of market economy while pursuing the objectives of safety, environmental protection and energy conservation. The first objective of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the Transport Division, is to provide Governments with an efficient forum for cooperation, analysis and coordinated action in the field of transport. Priority areas of cooperation will continue to be the transport of dangerous goods, the construction of vehicles, customs questions affecting transport, road safety, transport infrastructure and combined transport.

16.9 Acting together under the auspices of ECE, member Governments have developed over the years a set of major international legal instruments in the field of transport that establish appropriate international regulations, norms and standards, facilitate border crossing and provide for the development of coherent international infrastructure networks for road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport. The importance of such legal instruments has consistently been recognized by Governments and industry, as well as by the Pan-European Ministerial Transport Conferences held recently (Crete, March 1994 and Helsinki, June 1997). The second objective is to sustain and promote those international legal instruments and related regulations by continuing to make proposals for their updating and improvement, by increasing the number of contracting parties and, whenever possible, by monitoring implementation.

16.10 The major development trends in the field of transport in the region are the continuous growth of transport demand and accelerated development of road transport as compared with other modes of inland transport. A challenge for this subprogramme will be to continue to ensure efficient mobility of persons and goods while providing an adequate level of protection of the environment. To that end, the third objective is to continue the work and activities decided at the 1997 Regional Conference on Transport and Environment, as well as to assist in formulating further responses to that challenge.

16.11 Transport is also vital to the economic integration of countries and regions. The fourth objective is to improve the capabilities of the Governments of countries with economies in transition to implement the international legal instruments developed by ECE, as well as other policies and measures aimed at the development of their transport systems and infrastructures, which are compatible with those of neighbouring parts of the ECE region. This will be accomplished, inter alia, through the promotion of subregional cooperation in the field of transport, the implementation of a programme of workshops and the provision of advisory services.

Subprogramme 16.3 Statistics

16.12 The overall objectives of this subprogramme, which will be implemented by the Statistics Division, are to coordinate all international statistical work across the region and to make a direct and substantive input to the work on statistical development in the region. To that end, the subprogramme will strive:

(a) To respond in an efficient and effective way to the priorities and needs of national statistical offices in the ECE region through the implementation of the Conference of European Statisticians' work programme, which coordinates the statistical work of all other international agencies active in the region and determines a common set of country-specified aims and outputs;

(b) To ensure that essential macroeconomic and other statistics on the ECE region are collected, processed and made available in a timely manner, both to users within the framework of ECE - in particular the Economic Analysis Division and a number of principal subsidiary bodies - and to other international organizations relying on ECE for that data collection and processing;

(c) To address the particular circumstances and needs of economies in transition in the field of statistics through the regular work programme as well as through regional advisory services and technical assistance activities;

(d) To create the capacity in countries with economies in transition to use the system of national accounts effectively and to provide social indicators for their policy needs;

(e) To improve national statistics;

(f) To promote coordination and uniformity of concepts;

(g) To ensure that ECE makes full use of appropriate information technology so as to provide the ECE secretariat with an information systems service and graphics design service aimed at achieving maximum efficiency.

Subprogramme 16.4 Economic analysis

16.13 ECE work in the field of economic analysis contributes to economic integration as it permits the exchange of views and information on complex economic problems and policies, thereby improving mutual understanding among countries of the ECE region, providing an international perspective for national policy makers and, when appropriate, facilitating the convergence of their policies. This subprogramme, implemented by the Economic Analysis Division, has the following objectives:

(a) To produce, through the Economic Survey of Europe, the analysis of economic developments and problems in the countries with economies in transition and their economic and financial relations with other countries of the ECE region and the rest of the world. In line with the Plan of Action, it is intended to increase the analyses of structural change and institutional problems and to provide more frequent analysis of macroeconomic developments in the countries with economies in transition. Those general directions will be reflected in a new format of the Survey, namely, an annual volume of three issues. The first issue of each volume will focus on developments in the ECE region in the past and coming year, with special emphasis on the economies in transition and their relations with the rest of the world; it will also deal with selected structural and institutional aspects of the transition process. The second will address selected topics, including other areas of ECE work. The third will focus on the trade and external financial relations of the economies in transition and will replace the Economic Bulletin for Europe;

(b) To organize policy debates on economic problems and policies of countries of the ECE region on the basis of the Economic Survey. In this respect, a seminar will be held immediately prior to the annual session of the Commission to which economists from the government, academic and business sectors, as well as from other international organizations, will be invited. The conclusions of the seminar will provide an input to the economic debate that will take place on the first day of the annual session;

(c) In collaboration with UNFPA, to pursue, with a reduced resource base, population activities relating to reproductive and family behaviour, international migration and population ageing, progressively focusing on the latter.

Subprogramme 16.5 Sustainable energy

16.14 In economies in transition, energy usage is very high; energy production and use efficiencies are low; energy prices tend to be below international levels; markets are fragmented; energy trade is hampered by poor infrastructure and the rupture of traditional transport interconnections; and energy policies, legislation and standards are below Western norms and practices. It is only by resolving these problems that the energy systems and economies of countries with economies in transition will be able to be fully integrated into the European and world economies. In Mediterranean countries, energy systems are poorly interconnected and integrated at either the subregional or regional levels, and the full potential of renewable energies (notably solar energy) has yet to be realized. In Western countries, the issues of most concern are enhancement of energy efficiency and reduction of energy-related harmful environmental effects.

16.15 The objectives of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the Energy Division, are:

(a) To foster greater cooperation among countries at the subregional level in the energy field (e.g. the Mediterranean area, the Black Sea region);

(b) To promote the development of more sustainable energy systems in order to facilitate the societal transition to more sustainable forms of development;

(c) To address issues such as the restructuring of the energy sector in the context of sustainable development, including energy reforms in Central and Eastern Europe, integration of energy systems, and new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium term, including pricing policies and interconnection of electric power and gas networks in the region;

(d) To develop and implement norms and standards, including labelling and classification systems, for the sustainable production and use of energy, and to assist in the harmonization of legislation and policies dealing with the exploitation and use of energy;

(e) To improve energy conservation and efficiency, in particular in countries with economies in transition, where the need is the greatest;

(f) To further energy transport interconnections, both at the subregional and regional levels, particularly in electricity and gas;

(g) To enhance environmental protection, in particular with respect to the use of coal;

(h) To update and strengthen international classifications, statistics, databases, energy balances, projections and terminology in the field of energy so as to enhance the implementation of the subprogramme on energy;

(i) To strengthen specific technical assistance programmes for countries with economies in transition, such as Energy Efficiency 2000, the Gas Centre for the promotion and development of market-based gas industries in economies in transition and the Clean Coal Implementation Programme.

Subprogramme 16.6 Trade, industry and enterprise development

16.16 The objectives of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the Trade Division, are:

(a) To increase Governments' understanding of the main internal and external problems and obstacles impeding the development of foreign trade and foreign direct investments in the ECE region and the implications for these areas of implementing the Uruguay Round decisions by the beginning of the twenty-first century with a view to contributing to the adoption of policies facilitating and promoting intraregional trade and investment cooperation;

(b) To increase the awareness of policy makers in the countries with economies in transition of positive experience gained by developed market economies in different areas (promoting entrepreneurship, cross border trade, transit trade operations, marketing and financing techniques, etc.). The experience of those economies in transition which earlier embarked on the path of market transformation reforms will be assessed, with the goal of disseminating this information among interested member States and formulating recommendations on measures (in particular on cross-sectoral matters) that will facilitate the adaptation of the countries with economies in transition to market economy requirements, within the international economy;

(c) To facilitate regional and international trade by simplifying, rationalizing and, where possible, standardizing procedures, formalities and requirements where these place a financial and economic burden on the free flow of goods and transport. This work on trade facilitation has the following objectives: (i) to act as the international focal point for trade facilitation standards and recommendations, in particular through the newly established Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport; (ii) to develop and maintain the international standard for electronic data interchange, the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), in the context of a network of national, regional and international institutions engaged in the development and promotion of these standard activities; (iii) to enhance the dissemination of information on trade facilitation, in particular through electronic media, in the context of which use of the trade facilitation database and the Internet/World Wide Web will be developed further; (iv) to strengthen cooperation and information exchanges with other regional commissions, UNCTAD and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working in the context of trade facilitation in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to create synergy in common projects; and (v) to promote United Nations/ECE standards on the commercial quality of agricultural produce to facilitate foreign trade and distribution in domestic markets throughout the ECE region;

(d) To increase the awareness of member countries, in particular those with economies in transition, of developments in the field of coordination and harmonization of standardization policies, conformity assessment and metrology at the international, regional and national levels. Since sound metrological practices are the basis for quality assurance, testing and certification, ECE will develop its training programme aimed at senior metrologists from countries with economies in transition. The subprogramme will also facilitate the sharing of experience of the developed market economy countries that have recently adapted their legislation and administrative practices to conform with the relevant provisions of WTO and EU with those countries which have not yet done so;

(e) To foster activities at the interface of government and private sector responsibilities to promote the development of enterprise, in particular in countries with economies in transition, for ensuring an efficient and well-functioning market economy. Those activities will be grouped around the important cross-sectoral issues identified by the ECE Plan of Action, namely, collection of information about market trends and prospects, promotion of sustainable development and policies of privatization and restructuring. Within that framework, activities in the steel and chemical industries will continue to contribute to the integration of the market economy at the regional and global levels through the promotion of business, trade and investment and actions to promote enterprise development.

16.17 Close cooperation will be developed with UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, ESCAP and other United Nations bodies, as well as with WTO, OSCE, EU, OECD, EBRD and regional and subregional groupings and institutions in the transition economies. The secretariat will also develop its contacts with representatives of governmental bodies, research institutions and the private sector in the economies in transition.

Subprogramme 16.7 Timber

16.18 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Trade Division, are:

(a) To contribute to the achievement of sustainable management of the forest and timber sector in the ECE region by the early years of the twenty-first century, maintaining an appropriate balance between the productive, social and environmental functions of the forest. In that context, the subprogramme will help Governments, as requested, in the implementation of the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Pan-European Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe;

(b) To focus sharply on the following core activities: regular collection and publication of statistics; Temperate and Boreal Forest Resources Assessment 2000; indicators of sustainable forest management and monitoring of forestry assistance for countries with economies in transition (both developed for the Pan-European Ministerial process); review of forest products markets; and long-term outlook for the forest and timber sector;

(c) To emphasize an integrated sector-wide approach, covering forestry, markets for forest products and trade in forest products. The Timber Committee continues to maintain its close partnership with the FAO European Forestry Commission, with which it has an integrated work programme on timber and forest issues at the regional level. The cooperation with other international organizations, including ILO, UNEP, EU, the International Tropical Timber Organization and OECD, will be maintained and strengthened.

Subprogramme 16.8 Human settlements

16.19 The subprogramme is expected to result in the development and practical implementation of new strategies in housing policy, land administration, urban renewal and sustainable human settlement development based on best practices and casestudies. It will also contribute to the capacity-building process in countries with economies in transition and to the establishment of housing markets and related legislation.

16.20 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Environment and Human Settlements Division, are:

(a) To promote the development of reforms in the housing and related building and financial sectors in countries with economies in transition, involving also local authorities and the private sector, in order to obtain affordable housing for all;

(b) To promote cadastre and land registration systems, in particular with reference to countries with economies in transition, and with due regard for basic land management legislation, cadastral measures, land information systems and organization and management of the cadastre;

(c) To promote sustainable consumption initiatives at the local level by raising public awareness about the environmental impact of individual consumption, introducing incentive measures and encouraging close cooperation and partnerships between central Governments, local and regional authorities and other major groups;

(d) To strengthen international cooperation in the development and implementation of human settlement policies striving towards environmental, economic and social soundness and sustainable development; monitoring and analysing results in the implementation process and coordination of the policies with overall national sustainable development objectives; and building institutional capacity and professional know-how.

Legislative mandates

Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe (E/1997/36, annex III) and Plan of Action (ibid., annex IV), adopted by ECE on 22 April 1997 and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1997/224.

Subprogramme 16.1 Environment

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
49/113	Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

Economic and Social Council resolution

1992/43	Strengthening of the role of the regional commissions

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

I (42)	Principles regarding cooperation in the field of transboundary waters
E (44)	Charter on groundwater management
J (44)	Air pollution
B (45)	Terms of reference of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on environmental and water problems
C (45)	The Code of Conduct of Accidental Pollution of Transboundary Inland Waters
I (45)	Cooperation in the field of environmental protection and water resources and in the field of long-range transboundary air pollution
O (45)	The activities of the Economic Commission for Europe
P (45)	Institutional arrangements for ECE
D (46)	The European Red List of Globally Threatened Animals and Plants
G (50)	Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development

Subprogramme 16.2 Transport

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/50	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
1993/60	Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

Economic Commission for Europe resolutions

O (45)	The activities of the Economic Commission for Europe
P (45)	Institutional arrangements for ECE
D (49)	Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
H (50)	Cooperation in the field of transport

Subprogramme 16.3 Statistics

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1989/3	International economic classifications
1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts

Economic Commission for Europe resolutions

O (45)	The activities of the Economic Commission for Europe
P (45)	Institutional arrangements for ECE

Subprogramme 16.4 Economic analysis

General Assembly resolutions

45/199	International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade
46/145	Regional economic integration among developing countries
49/106	Integration of the economies into transition in the world economy
50/120	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
50/124	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

D (45)	The work of the Commission concerning economies in transition in Eastern and Central Europe
O (45)	The activities of the Economic Commission for Europe
P (45)	Institutional arrangements for ECE

B (46)	Cooperation in the field of economic analysis and assistance to countries in transition
A (50)	The work of the Commission and its future activities

Subprogramme 16.5 Sustainable energy

General Assembly resolutions

46/145	Regional economic integration among developing countries
48/165	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership
48/190	Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
49/106	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
49/111	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session

Economic and Social Council resolution

1991/86	Development and efficient use of energy resources

Economic Commission for Europe decision

I (50)	Cooperation in the field of energy

Subprogramme 16.6 Trade, industry and enterprise development

General Assembly resolutions

49/106	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
50/95	International trade and development

Economic and Social Council resolution

1991/76	Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

O (45)	The activities of the Economic Commission for Europe
P (45)	Institutional arrangements for ECE
C (49)	Promoting the expansion of trade for products from the countries in transition in international markets
B (50)	Diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy

Subprogramme 16.7 Timber

General Assembly resolutions

42/186	The Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
49/103	Food and agricultural development
50/107	Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

H (43)	Policy implications of the study "European Timber Trends and Prospects to the Year 2000 and Beyond"
O (45)	The activities of the Economic Commission for Europe
P (45)	Institutional arrangements for ECE

Subprogramme 16.8 Human settlements

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

H (42)	International harmonization of the technical content of building regulations
L (43)	Building regulations
J (50)	Cooperation in the field of human settlements

PROGRAMME 17. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

17.1 The general orientation of this programme is to promote the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean by collaborating interactively with member Governments in the comprehensive analysis of development processes and in the resulting provision of operational services. The programme, under the responsibility of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), focuses its analytical work on designing public policies and facilitates the implementation of such policies, concentrating operational services in the areas of specialized information, advisory assistance, training and support for regional and international cooperation.

17.2 The mandate for the programme derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI), by which the Council established ECLAC and entrusted it, inter alia, with initiating and participating in measures for raising the level of economic activity in the region and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the countries of the region both among themselves and with other countries of the world; making or sponsoring such investigations and studies as the Commission deems appropriate; and undertaking or sponsoring the collection, evaluation and dissemination of information on regional development issues, trends and policies. The mandate has been further elaborated in a number of General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Commission resolutions adopted subsequently.

17.3 By the end of the period covered by the plan, the programme is expected to have accomplished the following:

(a) Strengthened its effectiveness and efficiency in such areas as information-gathering, provision of technical assistance, monitoring of events, action-oriented research and more interaction with government officials;

(b) Analysed development issues from a regional perspective, with a special focus on emerging trends and their impact on Latin American and Caribbean development;

(c) Enhanced its role as a conduit to transmit regional concerns to global forums and bring global concerns to regional forums;

(d) Strengthened technical cooperation among developing countries and provided technical services to the secretariats of regional and subregional integration mechanisms;

(e) Promoted bilateral and multilateral cooperation, in particular in the areas of trade facilitation, transport, common standards, scientific research and technological development, efficient use of energy and environmental protection;

(f) Strengthened the capacity of the countries of the region to develop both public and private institutional capacity to adapt rapidly to change, to identify opportunities and to develop the capacities required in order to exploit the opportunities afforded by globalization and mitigate its potentially negative effects;

(g) Contributed to the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into major aspects of economic, social and political activity of the countries of the region.

Subprogramme 17.1 Linkages with the global economy, competitiveness and production specialization

17.4 If the development of the Latin American and Caribbean economies is to be sustainable, their linkages with the global economy (i.e. their quantitative and qualitative participation in trade flows, foreign direct investment and technology) must be improved. In addition, their capacity to take advantage of the expansionary cycles of international and regional trade and to withstand adverse conditions and financial instability must be increased through the diversification of products and markets, the search for foreign investment and partnerships, the use of domestic stabilization mechanisms and better linkages between exports and other productive activities.

17.5 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Division of International Trade, Finance and Transport is responsible, are as follows:

(a) The trends towards the globalization of markets and the regionalization of trade, the pattern of trade flows, financing and foreign direct investment and the worldwide process of technological change is likely to undergo new transformations in areas of importance to the region. Thus, the first objective is to alert the countries of the region to the advantages and disadvantages that the international situation entails for their linkages with the global economy and to enrich the debate over the appropriate design of national policies to promote competitiveness and growth in that context and to provide support to the States of the region in their efforts to maximize the benefits and minimize the pitfalls of these global trends;

(b) Notwithstanding the fact that, during the past two decades, several Latin American and Caribbean countries have managed to improve their linkages with the global economy through changes in the structure and direction of exports, the challenge of consolidating new specialization models, based on a profound change in production patterns and an increase in international competitiveness, continues to be relevant. The second objective is to promote the comparative study of export-driven development with a view to identifying strategic components of a dynamic process of changing production patterns that can support new specialization models and to make policy recommendations in that area;

(c) The foreseeable developments in the international context - economic, political and institutional - following the Uruguay Round and the advance of regional and subregional integration agreements can offer some opportunities for countries whose productive and export-driven development has been retarded; nevertheless, they also entail a significant erosion of the opportunities for implementing selective policies to promote such development. The third objective is to support the ongoing comparative study of trade policies and of the evolution of the regulatory framework for international trade with a view to optimizing the use of available opportunities and strengthening the region's negotiating capacity.

Subprogramme 17.2 Integration, open regionalism and regional cooperation

17.6 Within the southern hemisphere, the large number of commitments entered into by many countries in the region poses the challenge of reconciling economic globalization with regional integration agreements so as to avoid the fragmentation of the world economy into trading blocs. Another issue that has to be addressed is whether integration agreements should be broadened within Latin America and the Caribbean before other hemispheric partners are invited to join them, or whether progress should be made on both fronts simultaneously. There is also a need to anticipate any difficulties that could arise if some of the countries taking part in formal subregional integration processes decided to seek a unilateral link with any hemispheric free trade zone that may be formed, rather than negotiate jointly with the other countries in their subregional group.

17.7 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Division of International Trade, Finance and Transport is responsible, are as follows:

(a) The first objective is to increase the understanding of the member States of the region of the conceptual and practical problems that they will face as they move forward in the implementation of the integration agreements already entered into or those which may be concluded in the future and to provide support at the operational level to States of the region in their efforts to address these problems. The situations that will probably need to be examined in this context involve the establishment and reorienting of trade and capital flows as a result of the formal agreement mentioned above to promote economic integration in the region; the position of countries that are less capable of taking advantage of the potential benefits of Latin American and Caribbean and hemispheric integration; the harmonization of Latin American and Caribbean and hemispheric trade rules with the rules of WTO; the capacity of larger institutions to contribute to increasing investment and productivity in economic sectors; and the link between intraregional trade and environmental and employment conditions;

(b) The regional integration process reveals the simultaneous rise of unidimensional or limited integration agreements, the aim of which is to free markets for goods, services and factors of production (with the exception of the work force), and multidimensional or broad integration agreements, which have already reached the stage of customs unions and which aim at common markets and economic unions and at coordinated, harmonized and even joint policies. The second objective is to provide Member States and subregional integrated institutions with analytical and operational support in order to improve the existing free trade zones in the region, linking them wherever possible and, to the extent feasible, promoting their transition from limited integration processes to broader ones;

(c) The third objective is to promote the development of an integrated transport system that features complementarity and interaction among the various means of transport, including air and sea transport, which are vital to the expansion of the productivity and enhancement of competitiveness of the island economies, the search for institutional and technological solutions and a better use of pricing mechanisms;

(d) The fourth objective is to promote the incorporation of the social dimension into the integration processes, with particular focus on the coordination of social policies, especially in the areas of employment, social security, education, training and migration.

programme 17.3 Productive, technological and entrepreneurial development

8 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Division of Production, ductivity and Management is responsible, are as follows:

(a) The main challenge for the countries of the region is to accelerate ir growth rates. This requires the utilization and local adaptation of the t internationally available practices and technologies and the enhancement of countries' ability to compete internationally through the implementation of icies that support the modernization of enterprises, including ro-enterprises and rural production units, and of the environment in which y operate. To that end, the objective is to enhance the capability of the ernments of the region to formulate and implement policies and actions to engthen the technological dimension of productive activities, increase petitiveness, eliminate bottlenecks in the key factor markets - mainly in the a of human resources, physical capital and export promotion policies - and imulate entrepreneurial development;

(b) As the Latin American and Caribbean region is abundantly endowed with ural resources, its path to development must necessarily include dustrialization, based on the exploitation of its wealth of natural resources, bined with expansion of the activities and subsectors that tend to coalesce ound this production base, such as supply and processing industries and rvices, or that have lateral linkages based on a related technology or agement structure. From this standpoint, production systems built around shing, forestry, mining, energy supplies and agriculture become areas of ecial interest. The second objective is thus to increase knowledge of the kages and production chains that are being developed in the region and to entify the policies best suited to supporting this process. Special attention ll be paid to the factors that can maximize the positive effects of such kages on employment generation, poverty alleviation and income distribution, ile minimizing their negative impact on the environment;

(c) Another objective following from the above is to promote, on the one nd, the introduction and dissemination of technologies that facilitate a ller identification and utilization of natural assets and, on the other hand, e definition and development of the capacities required to manage them, with a ew to assigning priority to industries based on the exploitation and ocessing of natural resources and linking them to the effort to change oduction patterns;

(d) Transnational corporations are the main factor in the current obalization and restructuring of international markets. They are also cisive agents of the ongoing technological innovation process. Accordingly, e objective is to highlight the potential contribution these transnational ents can make to the economic development of the region's countries and to crease the understanding of the behavioural strategies of such enterprises and their technology transfer methods and partnership arrangements with local ents, in order to promote the establishment of Latin American and Caribbean ansnational enterprises that can contribute to the fulfilment of the region's velopment objectives;

(e) One area in which serious difficulties are anticipated is urban and tercity transport, since growing demand will exert strong pressure on an frastructure the physical capacity of which cannot be expanded sufficiently in e short term. Accordingly, the last objective is to support the efforts of untries in the region to increase the overall efficiency of the urban and intercity transport infrastructure and to improve the management of transport services, mainly by restructuring them, strengthening institutional capacity and redefining the role of the private sector.

Subprogramme 17.4 Macroeconomic equilibria, investment and financing

17.9 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Division of Economic Development is responsible, are as follows:

(a) In order to have a full understanding of economic development processes and the resulting types of linkages with an increasingly globalized international economy, it is essential to continue to monitor the macroeconomic context and means of overcoming the periodic constraints that the Latin American and Caribbean economies face. The objective is to increase the knowledge of overall economic trends in the region, the policies adopted and the developments that are taking place in the Latin American and Caribbean economies. Special attention will be paid to two issues: the compatibility between economic policy (fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies) and the structural reforms that are being implemented in the region; and the new types of external constraints that could result from financial globalization;

(b) Another objective is to help member States to formulate international and regional strategies to solve the problems stemming from external indebtedness, with an emphasis on improving the terms and conditions of this indebtedness. Special attention will also be paid to the issue of the development of new debt instruments and facilities;

(c) Another objective is to assess the effectiveness of development strategies implemented in the region in maintaining macroeconomic equilibria and achieving accelerated growth. In addition, medium- and long-term prospective studies will be carried out in order to support and assess the design of policies to promote the region's economic and social development;

(d) The low national saving levels characteristic of the region's economies, and the limited volume of investment resulting from such savings, will only allow them to grow at moderate rates; therefore, unless savings and capital formation increase significantly, an accelerated economic growth rate cannot be achieved. While in some countries the policies aimed at increasing savings and capital formation have yielded positive results, in most of the region the formulation of such policies is still in an initial stage. Meanwhile, the Asian countries' experience shows that there is room for innovation in the area of savings instruments and their institutional development. Thus, the objective is to support the design and implementation of policies to strengthen domestic capacities to generate financial resources for investment, establish appropriate financial institutions and instruments for channelling such resources into capital accumulation and facilitate the acceleration of the accumulation process;

(e) The speed of technological progress in the information field and, in particular, its strong and sustained impact on the trends towards globalization of the world economy, pose another major challenge for the region. The idea of a global information network raises questions related not only to future trends in the information and communications technology industry and market, but also, basically, to the issue of global links in the spheres of trade, cultural expression and political participation, in particular. Issues such as the impact of the Internet on the political decision-making process, promotion of developmental actions and interchange of research results in the region should be examined. Interaction between member States and ECLAC could also be enhanced through a more intensive utilization of information networks. The last objective is to contribute to the analysis and exploration of information resources and ways of optimizing their transfer, dissemination and use in such fields as research, policy formulation and the adoption of decisions concerning economic and social development.

Subprogramme 17.5 Social development and social equity

17.10 The chief characteristic of the present stage of development is the effort to improve the productivity and competitiveness of economies. The commitment to such an improvement, however, will require consideration of the social prerequisites of economic development, which, in turn, will make it necessary to change or strengthen, where appropriate, the way in which social policy is made and the role assigned to the State in this area. Such a change can come about only if the various social agents agree on converting social policy into a state policy that recognizes the economic importance of enhancing the quality of human capital.

17.11 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division of Social Development, are as follows:

(a) The first objective is to support the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the design and implementation of social policies, programmes and projects to increase social equity, efficiency in the use of available resources and effectiveness in the achievement of objectives, chiefly through the assessment of results, capacity-building and the establishment of new criteria. In the fulfilment of this objective, special importance will be attached to those aspects which specifically affect vulnerable groups within the Latin American and Caribbean societies;

(b) The changes that are taking place in the area of social policy objectives and mechanisms and the progress made in the reform of social services (in such areas as education, health care, social security and infrastructure and urban development) call for a deeper analysis of the new management methods that are being implemented in the region. In this area, special attention must be paid to the challenges inherent in improving the quality of services and strengthening social integration through the organized participation of civil society. Another relevant area consists of the experiments with decentralization and delegation of responsibility for social services and the conditions required to ensure their success. The second objective is to analyse the management experience in the area of social policies, programmes and projects with a view to comparing the various methods adopted, identifying successful tools, examining the main problems noted and formulating relevant recommendations, so as to provide policy makers in the social areas with objective information for the definition of national social policies;

(c) Despite the progress noted in some countries, statistical information and social indicators point to a worsening of income distribution and a higher incidence of poverty in most of the region, conditions that will take a long time to alleviate. In addition, poverty now displays different characteristics, notably its growing diversity and predominance in urban areas, even though rural poverty continues to be more critical. The third objective is to sharpen and update the diagnosis of social conditions in the countries of the region, especially in so far as the identification and follow-up of poverty situations and the analysis of the linkages among employment, income distribution and education are concerned;

(d) There is an urgent need to study and elaborate the economic impact caused by the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The fifth objective is to facilitate appropriate follow-up and complementary work to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme studies and research and analysis of the economic and social impact of drug production, trafficking and consumption, as well as formulations of alternative development programmes to remedy this impact, and to provide technical assistance in the formulation of national policies to prevent and reduce the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances.

Subprogramme 17.6 Administrative management

17.12 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), is responsible are as follows:

(a) Effective public administration within a democratic framework is an important prerequisite for the type of development to which the Latin American and Caribbean region aspires. The support of various social agents and the establishment of long-term political agreements will be key factors in ensuring acceptance of the responsibilities and sacrifices that reform entails. The first objective is to arrive at clarifying the notion of an effective public administration reform and at systematizing a dynamic approach to the issue, one that highlights the need for Governments and societies to collaborate in establishing a coherent order of priorities and to generate ongoing social support for the changes needed, in order to maintain the stability of the system;

(b) The second objective is to facilitate the development of an analytic framework available to the region's countries that can assist them in determining the public agenda where appropriate and in conformity with national priorities. An effort will thus be made to arrive at a medium-term strategic vision, having both technological and political dimensions, that promotes the implementation of policies to achieve democratic consensus, participation and leadership, so as to elicit support for the changes required;

(c) Another basic prerequisite for development will be to continue the current efforts to ensure the reform of the public administration in the region. The third objective is to support the countries of the region upon requests of Governments concerned in their efforts to improve the design of public policies, especially as regards reform of the system for analysing and formalizing such policies and the preparation of legal and administrative initiatives;

(d) The fourth objective is to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of regional public administration within the countries of the region;

(e) One aspect that must be appropriate in the context of the reform of the administrative management is the improvement, *inter alia*, of the regulatory function of the State as an entity promoting the efficient operation of market mechanisms. In this connection, the objective is to optimize the State's regulatory functions through the creation of an analytical and policy-oriented framework for promoting competitiveness, with a view to meeting the challenges stemming from privatization processes, the deregulation of economic activities, consumer protection and increased consumer power, and the upgrading of the regulatory frameworks of sectors not naturally thought of as competitive.

Subprogramme 17.7 Environmental and land resource sustainability

17.13 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Division of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible, are as follows:

(a) Natural resources and energy will continue to play a strategic role in the new stage of development and industrialization in Latin America and the Caribbean; the region must ensure that the management of natural resources, their progressive incorporation into production and, in particular, the technologies employed are environmentally sustainable. The first objective is to enhance the capabilities of the countries of the region to analyse and formulate policies and implement measures aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable development of natural resources and energy and establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms of environmental protection at the national and regional levels, in particular in high-priority spheres such as environmental impact assessment and land-use planning;

(b) The second objective is to support the initiatives of the countries of the region in the implementation of Agenda 21, including, in particular, in such areas as the preservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of the resources it offers, the management of fragile ecosystems, the protection of the sources, quality and supply of fresh water, and the management and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes;

(c) The Latin American and Caribbean region has become predominantly urban. Proper management of the urban process entails strengthening democratic local government at all levels to mobilize the societal resources required to expand and modernize inadequate urban infrastructures and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of housing management to prevent the current shortage from becoming even more acute. The objective is to contribute towards a better understanding of the conditions and trends in human settlements in the region and to support countries in establishing balanced and integrated human settlement systems, improving housing, infrastructure and services and instituting proper management of the urban process.

Subprogramme 17.8 Population and development

17.14 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), is responsible are as follows:

(a) The obstacles that hinder efforts to attain social equity bring to light the magnitude of the population groups who are at risk - women, the elderly, children, youth and indigenous peoples - all of whom are highly vulnerable to the risks inherent in poverty and social neglect. In addition, since poor people tend to have higher fertility rates, more unwanted children and an unquestionably lower life expectancy than groups that are not poor, considerable pressure must be brought to bear on available resources in order to overcome deficiencies in social services - health, education, reproductive health and family planning - to break the vicious circle of perpetual poverty. Thus, the objective is to improve the capacity of countries to incorporate population variables into social policies, programmes and projects, especially those targeting priority groups;

(b) Population policies aimed at overcoming the inequities that affect demographic behaviour are important because they allow for greater equality of opportunity and play a decisive role in defining investment needs in the area of human resources. The agreements adopted at the International Conference on

Population and Development, held at Cairo in 1994, underscore the importance of population policy as an integrating framework for the programme of action agreed upon at the Conference. The second objective is to support the Governments of the region in their efforts to implement the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development;

(c) Some countries have made considerable progress towards strengthening the capabilities of local governments by enhancing their know-how, technical expertise and human resources in the area of population and development. Nevertheless, local governments need to understand better the linkages between population and development at the subnational level, in particular in the case of small areas and specific ecosystems. The third objective is thus to promote the simultaneous use of sectoral and demographic information through modern software technologies such as REDATAM (Retrieval of Data for Small Areas), which was developed by CELADE;

(d) The environmental situation of the region provides irrefutable evidence of the many factors that converge in the ever-changing interrelationship between population, development and the environment. Thus, the rapid demographic growth of some cities and the movements of landless farm workers in hot, rainy ecosystems are extreme examples of the critical links that exist between demographic dynamics and the natural environment. The excessive growth of cities tends to cause the exhaustion of sources of potable water, pollution of the atmosphere, dilapidation of soils and accumulation of waste, all of which harm the environment. The fourth objective is to assist member States in designing, monitoring and evaluating suitable environmental and spatial projects, programmes and policies;

(e) In view of the increasing globalization of trade and the repercussions of recent economic trends, the ways in which the countries of the region enter the international market have changed significantly. These developments on the international scene have been directly reflected in migrations and population movements across national borders. Consequently, the fifth objective is to help develop a system for analysing the determining factors and the implications of these new migratory patterns, as well as their relationship with the trend towards globalization of the economy, as reflected, in particular, in integration of markets.

Subprogramme 17.9 Statistics and economic projections

17.15 The economic, social and institutional reforms undertaken by Latin American and Caribbean Governments and the new patterns of development that are gradually taking shape have created a greater demand for information and prospective studies from both public and private sectors.

17.16 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Division of Statistics and Economic Projections is responsible, are as follows:

(a) The first objective is to strengthen the capacity of Governments of the region to produce the statistics and projections needed to formulate and monitor new policies and institutional reforms in progress;

(b) The second objective is to continue to promote the introduction of technological advances for broad dissemination of data to the public and private sectors and of new international classification methods, in particular the 1993 System of National Accounts;

(c) The Governments of the region are according greater priority to overcoming poverty and formulating social policies to ensure equality of opportunity and to solve the problems currently facing women, children, youth and families. The third objective is to develop and expand the compilation and analysis for policy purposes of social statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, including data needed to monitor objectives set by world conferences;

(d) Major transformations are taking place in the region, both at the institutional and macroeconomic levels. The countries of the region are receiving projections on the expected trends in the major industrialized countries from diverse sources. However, often the projections do not coincide, and it is therefore difficult for the Governments of the region to assess appropriately the impact of the trends in industrialized countries on their own countries. In order to develop the regional capabilities to foresee effectively upcoming trends and challenges, the fourth objective is to facilitate monitoring and assessing of new development processes and their projections, including summaries of major projected global trends in aspects that are relevant to the region.

Subprogramme 17.10 Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America

17.17 During the 1990s, the countries served by the subregional headquarters in Mexico made considerable progress towards concluding their stabilization and adjustment processes. From the beginning of the decade, almost all the economies of the subregion - with some variations - showed a clear trend towards recovery in the area of production, in a context of greater monetary and financial stability.

17.18 In addition, the countries have made very similar changes - albeit at different rates and to different degrees - in the orientation of their economic policies, particularly as regards the opening up of external markets, with a view to improving the competitiveness and efficiency of the production apparatus. As a result, the process of external negotiations has become increasingly important from the strategic standpoint.

17.19 At the same time, public policies have been geared more towards letting the market play a greater role in resource allocation. Thus, the role of the State is gradually being redefined in the management of the economy taking into account the specific evolution and necessity of each country, and a greater role has been given to other actors, forums and agents.

17.20 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the ECLAC Office in Mexico is responsible, are:

(a) To identify and strengthen those central elements of sustained and sustainable development that can be translated into concrete actions;

(b) To promote social development policies aimed at assisting low-income groups and disadvantaged and indigenous communities, as well as integrating women into the development process;

(c) To promote Central American economic integration, in particular through the coordination of macroeconomic policies, and to facilitate the countries' negotiations and their incorporation into free-trade areas that include industrialized economies and established blocs;

(d) To facilitate the integration of the countries in the area into the international economy and the incorporation of small economies into hemisphere-wide integration efforts (free trade agreement of the Americas);

(e) To promote strategies and policies that will benefit small- and medium-scale industries in their efforts to become competitive on the international market;

(f) To strengthen the capacity of Governments to formulate macroeconomic policy strategies for the agricultural, industrial and services sectors, with a view to fostering the development of national production chains and improving their international competitiveness;

(g) To promote the development of the energy sector in Central America, the interconnection of electrical systems, the search for new sources of energy and the design of hydrocarbon policies for Central America.

Subprogramme 17.11 Subregional activities in the Caribbean

17.21 In the Caribbean, many policies adopted in the first part of the decade to adjust the economies and adapt them to changing global developments have achieved some success and, if consistently continued over the next few years, will produce steady economic growth. However, a number of policies are still incomplete and the social fallout from earlier years of stagnation and subsequent adjustment policies will need continued attention.

17.22 The integration of the Caribbean market has been on the agenda for many years, but progress, especially within the Caribbean Community, has been slow. New impetus is likely to come, however, from measures aimed at widening the market beyond the traditional groupings, through the formation of the Association of Caribbean States and proposals for a free trade area of the Americas by the year 2005. Protectionist sentiments, evident in recent decades, will probably be more difficult to sustain as new institutional arrangements develop their momentum. At the same time, the widening of markets to include large and robust economies will require more vigorous measures by the smaller and weaker economies if they are not to be severely disadvantaged as they face increased competition.

17.23 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the ECLAC Office in Port-of-Spain is responsible, are as follows:

(a) The issue of competitiveness looms large for many countries in the region, as they race to assimilate the large unemployed labour force and absorb the influx of new entrants into the labour force. The need to increase competitiveness will continue to be heightened by progressive market opening, since the protected markets to which most Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) countries have become accustomed will gradually disappear. Thus, the first objective is to assist the countries of the subregion to formulate supportive microeconomic and management policies that will stimulate investments, improve competitiveness and channel increased savings to productive activities;

(b) Much progress has been made in improving the quality of economic management in the Caribbean, but this progress has been uneven. The objective is to assist those countries in the region which are either experiencing especially severe disequilibria or are likely to experience new shocks from such factors as the reduction of preferences and will continue to require advice and assistance in the formulation of appropriate macroeconomic policies;

(c) Several social issues, such as poverty, early parenthood and high levels of marginalization leading to drug abuse, crime and violence, will continue to warrant attention, and the search for effective policies to break the poverty cycle will need to continue. The third objective is to enhance the study and comprehension, in an integrated manner, of the causes and consequences of social marginalization, with the goal of formulating policies and/or measures to reduce it;

(d) On the basis of the recent United Nations global conferences (the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)), the fourth objective is to facilitate regional cooperation among Caribbean countries through the promotion and organization of follow-up activities to those conferences;

(e) Environment and sustainable development issues continue to be of importance to the Caribbean subregion. Issues of island developing countries will continue to receive attention, in particular through the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in 1994. The fifth objective is to strengthen member countries' capabilities to incorporate environmental considerations into development planning and to assist in policy formulation at the subregional level on matters relating to environment and development;

(f) Owing to the openness of their economies, Caribbean countries are highly sensitive to international economic developments and their consequential implications for economic and social development in the region. In that context, cooperation among CDCC member countries and between the Caribbean and Latin America, in both economic and non-economic areas, becomes essential as a means of contributing to the development of the region's countries. Thus, the sixth objective is to identify ways by which the commitment of Caribbean countries to regionalism can be compatible with the new demands being placed on them to integrate into the wider hemispheric and global economic cooperation imperatives.

Subprogramme 17.12 Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development

17.24 Although the status of women has improved considerably in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past few years in terms of access to public education, health services and participation in the labour market, significant obstacles still remain to the full involvement of women in regional development and, more specifically, in the decision-making process in their respective societies. The problems and challenges posed by the need to improve the status of women in the region have been a focus of attention and efforts for the member States and secretariat of ECLAC for many years. A clear consensus is now emerging in the region as to the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective into all major aspects of economic, social and political activity. As part of that undertaking, ECLAC has been called upon to play an active role in promoting the necessary courses of action to catalyse the process.

17.25 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Women and Development Unit is responsible, are as follows:

(a) To contribute to the operational consolidation and strengthening of institutional mechanisms that promote the full involvement of women in regional development. To that end, the ECLAC secretariat is expected to play an active role in supporting regional mechanisms for consensus-building in relation to gender equity, such as the regional conference on women and its presiding officers. In addition, collaboration with governmental offices for women's affairs will be strengthened in areas such as the supply of gender-related information and the provision of training on substantive, methodological and logistical matters, with a view to enhancing their institutional, human resources development and inter-sectoral coordination capabilities so as to enable them to meet the increasing demand for their services;

(b) To expand knowledge on gender-related issues in the region by promoting and supporting analytical research activities conducted by the countries of the region on priority issues relevant to the full integration of women into development and to the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into all major fields of economic and social activity. Those issues are defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001. To that end, the secretariat plans to carry forward and expand its research work on gender issues. It will also contribute to the shaping by consensus and consolidation of a regional position on gender issues in international debates within the United Nations system;

(c) To guide and focus the substantive efforts of the units of the ECLAC system to mainstream the gender perspective in all their programmes and projects, especially in technical cooperation activities for development provided by ECLAC to its member States. To that end, emphasis will be placed on putting into place procedures for systematic coordination of substantive tasks with the efforts undertaken by the other organizational units of ECLAC to design and apply gender-sensitive methodological tools. Inter-agency coordination on gender issues, in particular with the organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system that are active in the region, will be strengthened.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 17.1 Linkages with the global economy, competitiveness and production specialization

General Assembly resolution

50/95	International trade and development

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

458 (XX)	Adjustment policies and renegotiation of the external debt
476 (XXI)	Technical support by ECLAC to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for multilateral trade negotiations
486 (XXI)	Technical and economic cooperation among developing countries and regions

559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.2 Integration, open regionalism and regional cooperation

General Assembly resolution

46/145	Regional economic integration among developing countries

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

356 (XVI)	ECLAC and international and regional cooperation
486 (XXI)	Technical and economic cooperation among developing countries and regions
522 (XXIV)	Strengthening intraregional cooperation
534 (XXV)	Open regionalism
546 (XXV)	Programme of further cooperation and integration between Latin America and the Caribbean
559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.3 Productive, technological and entrepreneurial development

General Assembly resolutions

50/101	Science and technology for development
50/106	Business and development

Economic and Social Council resolution

1995/4	Science and technology for development

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

518 (XXIV)	Measures to improve cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean
519 (XXIV)	Bases for changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean
521 (XXIV)	Human resources, changing production patterns and social equity
530 (XXIV)	Cooperation among developing countries and regions
533 (XXV)	International linkages
559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.4 Macroeconomic equilibria, investment and financing

General Assembly resolutions

46/145	Regional economic integration among developing countries
50/95	International trade and development
50/130	Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

Economic and Social Council resolution

1995/61	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

458 (XX)	Adjustment policies and renegotiation of the external debt
518 (XXIV)	Measures to improve cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean
519 (XXIV)	Bases for changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean
533 (XXV)	International linkages
549 (XXV)	Coordination for development
559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.5 Social development and social equity

General Assembly resolutions

45/199	International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade
50/104	Women in development
50/105	Developing human resources for development
50/107	Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
50/148	International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/165	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council resolution

1995/17	Enhanced regional cooperation to reduce the risks of drug abuse

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution

559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.6 Administrative management

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

340 (AC.66)	Eighth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC
542 (XXV)	Support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)
559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.7 Environmental and land resource sustainability

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
48/178	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000
49/109	United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
50/126	Water supply and sanitation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1985/48	Mineral resources
1985/49	Water resources development

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

379 (XVII)	Natural resources and the Latin American development process
426 (XIX)	Energy
484 (XXI)	Activities in the field of water resources

544 (XXV)	Activities on environment and development
559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.8 Population and development

General Assembly resolutions

50/123	International migration and development
50/124	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Economic and Social Council resolution

1995/7	2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

555 (XXVI)	Latin American Demographic Center
556 (XXVI)	Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development

Subprogramme 17.9 Statistics and economic projections

General Assembly resolution

50/107	Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
1995/7	2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme
1995/61	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution

559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.10 Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America

General Assembly resolutions

46/145	Regional economic integration among developing countries
50/58 B and C	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to

	individual countries or regions: International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America; and Assistance for the reconstruction and development of El Salvador
50/95	International trade and development

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

492 (XXII)	Economic cooperation among developing countries
508 (XXIII)	Cooperation among developing countries and regions
513 (XXIII)	Role of women in economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
518 (XXIV)	Measures to improve cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean
519 (XXIV)	Bases for changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean
521 (XXIV)	Human resources, changing production patterns and social equity
522 (XXIV)	Strengthening intraregional cooperation
530 (XXIV)	Cooperation among developing countries and regions
533 (XXV)	International linkages
534 (XXV)	Open regionalism
546 (XXV)	Programme of further cooperation and integration between Latin America and the Caribbean
559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 17.11 Subregional activities in the Caribbean

General Assembly resolution

50/116	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions

358 (XVI)	Establishment of a Caribbean development and cooperation committee
506 (XXIII)	Economic cooperation between the Caribbean nations and other countries in the region
518 (XXIV)	Measures to improve cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean

519 (XXIV)	Bases for changing production patterns with social equity in Latin America and the Caribbean
522 (XXIV)	Strengthening intraregional cooperation
533 (XXV)	International linkages
534 (XXV)	Open regionalism
546 (XXV)	Programme of further cooperation and integration between Latin America and the Caribbean
559 (XXVI)	Programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the biennium 1998-1999

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee resolutions

41 (XV)	Removal of language barriers in the Caribbean
42 (XV)	Enhancement of the capability of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)

Subprogramme 17.12 Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development

General Assembly resolutions

50/203, 51/69 and 52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1997/17	Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action
1997/54	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of reform of the United Nations
1997/61	Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

PROGRAMME 18. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN ASIA

18.1 The overall orientation of the programme is to enhance sustainable development in the region, promote regional cooperation and policy coordination and increase awareness of the economic, social, cultural, technological and environmental dimensions of development and mainstream the gender and right to development perspectives into those dimensions.

18.2 The mandate of the programme derives from Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) and 1985/69, which established and amended the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The secretariat of the Commission is responsible for the implementation of this programme.

18.3 In implementing the programme, ESCWA will continue to identify and design a multidisciplinary approach to regional cooperation within the context of the priorities and programmes of its member States, taking into consideration the aspirations of civil society institutions.

18.4 ESCWA will also work towards implementing article 8, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Declaration on the Right to Development. It will assist its member States in ensuring that they undertake all necessary measures for the realization of the right to development and ensure, inter alia, equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income. ESCWA will also support the efforts of Governments to ensure that women have an active role in the development process and that appropriate economic and social reforms are undertaken in eradicating all social injustices.

18.5 It is anticipated that, during the period covered by the plan, ESCWA efforts will culminate in the following achievements:

(a) Establishment of the Commission as the major source of statistics and information in the region, especially gender-disaggregated statistics, through the development of databases, information systems and networks pertinent to the work of ESCWA and end-users;

(b) Greater understanding of sustainable human development through defining priorities, formulating plans and undertaking relevant actions;

(c) Improved management of natural resources and environmental protection, enhanced cooperation among member States in the area of energy and greater utilization of renewable energy resources;

(d) Development of the role of ESCWA as the regional catalyst and forum for development through its assistance to member States in coping with the implications of regional and global changes;

(e) Increased cooperation and coordination among member States in harmonizing relevant norms, standards, regulations and definitions, and in adopting relevant regional conventions;

(f) Consolidation and expansion of existing regional coordination mechanisms among United Nations agencies and with other regional organizations;

(g) Provision of effective assistance to the Palestinian National Authority and to countries with special needs, in particular Yemen, the least developed country in the region;

(h) Ensuring that gender and issues pertaining to the right to development are mainstreamed into the plan, policies and programmes of ESCWA.

Subprogramme 18.1 Management of natural resources and environment

18.6 The majority of ESCWA member States will face increasingly complex issues related to the development and management of their natural resources as well as addressing serious environmental problems. These issues have to be tackled in the context of increasing intraregional interdependence. The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division, is expected to play a catalytic role in regional coordination and cooperation for the management of natural resources, in particular water resources and energy, and the protection of the environment.

18.7 In the area of water, the objectives are:

(a) To promote integrated approaches in order to meet the challenges stemming from a combination of shortage of freshwater resources, deterioration of their quality and a rapid increase in water demand for multi-utilization, viewed in the context of population growth, agricultural land use and socio-economic development;

(b) To contribute to the design and propagation of schemes for more rational utilization and conservation of freshwater resources, taking into consideration the need for increasing public awareness and ensuring the participation of men and women in local communities in the management and use of water, the implementation of water projects and environmental protection programmes;

(c) To provide effective assistance to member States in the formulation and execution of programmes for capacity-building, as well as diffusion of modern techniques and technologies for the development of both surface and groundwater resources, including non-conventional sources;

(d) To support Governments in their efforts to establish appropriate intraregional and interregional mechanisms for the development and management of shared water basins in full compliance with the various articles of the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Water Courses in the region;

(e) To encourage optimal utilization of freshwater resources, enforcement of efficient water pricing and demand management, taking into consideration the social well-being of the disadvantaged.

18.8 In the area of energy, the objectives are:

(a) To strengthen the capacity of member States to improve their energy policies and planning methodologies and techniques;

(b) To promote the use of alternative sources of energy and encourage the development of programmes for the efficient use of energy;

(c) To contribute to the dissemination of new and renewable energy technologies, mainly as part of integrated rural development in ESCWA countries;

(d) To foster intra- and interregional cooperation in the field of electric energy networks.

18.9 In the area of environment, the objectives are:

(a) To promote environmental awareness and action to address environmental degradation issues in the region;

(b) To strengthen cooperation within the secretariat and with national, regional and international organizations in monitoring, analysing and reporting on emerging environmental issues and conventions, and to follow up on the implementation of Agenda 21, especially those chapters dealing with integration of land and water resource management and conservation;

(c) To promote environmentally sound technologies to achieve sustainable sectoral development in selected priority areas with a view to reversing environmental damage and degradation of natural resources, improving the efficiency of resource use, minimizing waste, maximizing recycling and environmental protection, and assessing the environmental impact of transport operations and energy utilization.

Subprogramme 18.2 Improvement of the quality of life

18.10 The rapidly changing global and regional economic conditions pose serious problems in terms of their impact on community cohesion and family structure and values. These have been compounded by the effects of financial constraints to investment in social sectors and the growing problems of urbanization.

18.11 Attempting the resolution of these social problems has to take account of emerging international and regional trends and the globalization of issues pertaining to the improvement of the quality of life.

18.12 Notwithstanding the fact that issues pertaining to the improvement of the quality of life are indivisible and interdependent and will, therefore, be addressed in an interdisciplinary manner insofar as possible, the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Social Development Issues and Policies Division, will seek to achieve objectives related to four specific yet complementary areas pertaining to the improvement of the quality of life: population, human development, advancement of women and human settlements. In that context, the subprogramme will follow up on the implementation and seek to operationalize recommendations relevant to the region emanating from five world conferences, namely, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the World Conference on Human Rights. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all activities will be accorded priority.

18.13 In the area of population the objectives are:

(a) To enhance the capabilities of countries of the region and their awareness in the areas of methodologies and techniques of demographic analysis, including gender variables, population policies and migration;

(b) To increase awareness and understanding of the population situation, trends, issues and challenges and their interrelationships with sustainable development;

(c) To increase understanding of the linkages between population factors, gender, poverty, human rights and environment.

18.14 In the area of human development, the objectives are:

(a) To promote integrated approaches to rural development and the alleviation of poverty, taking into consideration the increasing impact of poverty on women;

(b) To encourage production and income-generating capabilities, in particular for less advantaged groups;

(c) To support partnership between governmental and non-governmental bodies, including people's participation in national and regional governance to foster sustained human development;

(d) To mobilize and enhance institutions of civil society such as the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community organizations and family structures;

(e) To promote the cultural dimension of development.

18.15 In the area of the advancement of women, the objectives are:

(a) To follow up on the gender-related recommendations that emanated from the five world conferences referred to above;

(b) To provide support to the family as a basic unit of society and underscore family-related roles, values and identity;

(c) To sensitize society to gender-related issues, including partnership and participation, raise awareness with regard to legislation and institutional support mechanisms and act as a catalyst in mainstreaming a gender perspective into development policies, plans and programmes;

(d) To assist in building capacities of non-governmental organizations as tools for monitoring and promoting the advancement of women.

18.16 In the area of human settlements, the objectives are:

(a) To monitor and identify problems resulting from rapid urbanization and social change and assess their impact on the quality of life;

(b) To promote understanding and raise awareness of the problems and needs of human settlements, in particular the provision of adequate and affordable housing and related services aimed at the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of Governments of the region in formulating appropriate policies and strategies for sustainable human settlement development.

Subprogramme 18.3 Economic development and global changes

18.17 The economic development of ESCWA member countries will be challenged by the rapidly unfolding regional and global economic changes emanating from the globalization of the world economy, new regional developments, including the economic implications of the Middle East peace process and an increasing trend towards market-oriented economies, including economic reform and structural adjustment measures.

18.18 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Economic Development Issues and Policies Division, are:

(a) To expand understanding of economic development with a view to enhancing macroeconomic management, international and intraregional trade, finance, debt management and domestic and foreign direct investment;

(b) To increase understanding of the impact of liberalization of economic activity and improve the preparedness of member States for participating in world economic arrangements (e.g. WTO/GATT, European Mediterranean Partnership);

(c) To identify modalities for enhancing regional financing infrastructures, with a view to facilitating intraregional capital movements and integration in the global financial system;

(d) To strengthen the capacity of member States to implement economic reform policies, financial management, privatization and deregulation measures.

Subprogramme 18.4 Coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations for sectoral development

18.19 Regional economic cooperation, in the context of a prevailing global economic culture and environment, is predicated, in part, on the harmonization, at the regional level, of standards, norms and regulations, taking into consideration the implications of global treaties, conventions and standards. The harmonization of regional standards assumes special significance in the areas of transport, industry and technology.

18.20 The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Sectoral Issues and Policies Division, will focus on four areas: transport, industry, agriculture and technology.

18.21 The objectives in these areas are:

(a) Transport. To promote cooperation among member States based on improved transport operations and infrastructure policies, as well as harmonization of standards and the adoption of legal regimes for removing barriers impeding the streamlining and liberalization of border crossings and transit traffic;

(b) Industry. To improve the competitiveness of existing industries through the development of skills and policies, enhancing coordination and networking among national and regional support institutions and enabling industries to meet the requirements of regional and international standards, norms and regulations;

(c) Agriculture. To identify and promote appropriate agricultural strategies and practices in terms of agricultural management, resource conservation, and institution-building, and to identify areas that require harmonization of agricultural policies, regulations and norms, with a view to developing the agricultural potential of member States;

(d) Technology. To strengthen capabilities of member States in technology policy and effective transfer of technology, to strengthen their technological capacity and to promote research and development activities, their networking and linkages with the production sectors.

Subprogramme 18.5 Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information

18.22 Sound economic and social policy formulation and judicial decision-making are based on the availability, reliability and comparability of gender-disaggregated economic and social statistical data and their linkages. The formulation of appropriate gender-sensitive development policies is also rooted in access to regional and international sources of information. Effective linkages of information and networking, in an era of globalization and sharing of information, have become essential components in the formulation of statistical strategies and have far-reaching effects on it.

18.23 The objectives of the subprogramme, which is to be implemented by the Statistics Division, are:

(a) To develop statistical systems of ESCWA member States, with a view to improving the relevance, accuracy and gender sensitivity of economic and social data;

(b) To expand the coverage of the subprogramme to new statistical areas, especially in the field of gender-sensitive and social statistics as required for follow-up action on the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the above-mentioned world conferences, and in monitoring the exercise of the right to development;

(c) To promote the use of standardized reporting procedures and comparable statistics through the implementation of international statistical systems and programmes, in particular, the 1993 System of National Accounts, the International Comparison Programme and the 2000 round of population and housing censuses;

(d) To improve the reliability of statistical information and data and accessibility to them for planners and researchers;

(e) To develop gender-disaggregated statistical and textual databases in various socio-economic fields.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 18.1 Management of natural resources and environment

General Assembly resolutions

45/199	International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade
45/209	Development of the energy resources in developing countries

S-18/3	Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development in Developing Countries
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
50/58 H	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions: Assistance to the Palestinian people
50/112	Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa
50/126	Water supply and sanitation

Economic and Social Council resolution

1991/85	Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

180 (XVI)	Regional cooperation and coordination in the field of environment and sustainable development
204 (XVIII)	Establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
205 (XVIII)	Establishment of a committee on water resources in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Subprogramme 18.2 Improvement of the quality of life

General Assembly resolutions

41/128	Declaration on the right to development
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
48/98	Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing
48/178	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000
49/153	Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standards Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and of the Long-Te Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concern Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond

50/58 H	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions: Assistance to the Palestinian people
50/103	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
50/104	Women in development
50/105	Developing human resources for development
50/107	Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
50/124	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
52/25	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
52/136	Right to development
52/148	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
52/195	Women in development
52/196	Developing human resources for development

Economic and Social Council resolution

1994/2	Work programme in the field of population

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

198 (XVII)	Establishment of a committee on social development within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
203 (XVII)	Follow-up of the decisions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting and of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Commission on Human Rights resolution

1997/72	The right to development

Subprogramme 18.3 Economic development and global changes

General Assembly resolutions

45/199	International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade
46/144	Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries
47/178	Net transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries
48/165	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership
48/180	Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development
49/97	Strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade
49/99	International trade and development
49/101	United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency
50/58 H	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions: Assistance to the Palestinian people
50/103	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
50/107	Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

Subprogramme 18.4 Coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations for sectoral development

General Assembly resolutions

48/172	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
48/180	Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development

49/99	International trade and development
49/103	Food and agricultural development
49/108	Industrial development cooperation
50/101	Science and technology for development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/69	Contribution of technologies, including new and emerging technologies, to the industrialization of developing countries and the strengthening of regional and global integration processes, and proposed ways and means of transferring such technologies and incorporating them in the productive sector of those countries
1993/71	Activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development

Subprogramme 18.5 Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information

Economic and Social Council resolution

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution

179 (XVII)	Setting up a statistics committee within the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

PROGRAMME 19. HUMAN RIGHTS

19.1 The purpose of the United Nations human rights programme is to promote universal enjoyment of all human rights by giving practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community as expressed by the United Nations. Its mandate derives from Articles 1, 13 and 55 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/121, the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as defined in resolution 48/141, international human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations and the resolutions and decisions of policy-making bodies. The programme is based on the principles and recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

19.2 The programme is under the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who performs his functions under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 48/141, and its objectives are to provide the leading role on human rights issues and to emphasize the importance of human rights on the international and national agendas; to promote international cooperation for human rights; to stimulate and coordinate action across the whole United Nations system; to promote universal ratification and implementation of international standards and to assist in the development of new norms; to support human rights organs and treaty monitoring bodies; to anticipate serious violations and react to violations; to emphasize preventive human rights action and promote the establishment of national human rights infrastructures; to undertake human rights field activities and operations and to provide education, information, advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights.

19.3 By the end of the period covered by this plan, it is expected that the following will have been accomplished:

(a) A significant enhancement and strengthening of international cooperation in the field of human rights leading to increased effectiveness of international machinery, improved respect of human rights at the national level, through, inter alia, universal ratification of basic international human rights treaties, the incorporation of those standards into the domestic legislation of States and the continuing adaptation of the United Nations human rights machinery to the current and future needs in the promotion and protection of human rights, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration;

(b) A major strengthening of coordination for human rights across the United Nations system leading to a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of human rights based on the contribution of each of the United Nations organs, bodies and specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights and on improved inter-agency cooperation and coordination;

(c) The adoption and implementation of an integrated and multidimensional strategy for the promotion and protection of the right to development accompanied by a significant enhancement of support from relevant United Nations bodies for that purpose;

(d) A significant increase in recognition of economic, social and cultural rights and in activities for their protection, including the integration of economic, social and cultural rights as human rights into the strategies and programmes of international organizations, agencies and financial and developmental institutions, the identification of indicators showing success in respecting those rights and the adoption of a communications procedure relating to non-compliance with economic, social and cultural rights;

(e) The adoption and progressive implementation of an improved treaty monitoring system dealing with multiple reporting obligations and based on a comprehensive national approach;

(f) The implementation of a strengthened system of special procedures based on harmonization and rationalization of work;

(g) The reinforcement of the United Nations as the unique worldwide forum for the discussion and resolution of human rights matters of international concern, with the participation of all relevant actors;

(h) The adoption of more efficient methods within the United Nations to promote and protect human rights, including by preventing human rights violations throughout the world and removing obstacles to the full realization of human rights;

(i) The implementation of a comprehensive United Nations programme to assist States, at their request, to develop and implement national human rights plans of action strengthening, inter alia, national structures having an impact on democracy and the rule of law, the establishment of national institutions, to give effect to the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights;

(j) The full integration of the human rights of women and the girl child into the activities of the United Nations system as a whole and its human rights machinery in particular;

(k) The implementation of effective measures to promote equality, dignity and tolerance, to fight racism and xenophobia, and to protect minorities, indigenous populations, migrant workers, the disabled and others;

(l) The establishment of effective programmes of education and public information and the strengthened contribution of non-governmental organizations, national institutions, grass-roots organizations and civil society in United Nations human rights activities at all levels, according to the legislative mandates in effect regarding these issues;

(m) The provision to States, United Nations bodies, experts and the academic community of high-quality research and analysis on human rights issues, including dealing with emerging problems and developing new standards and instruments.

Subprogramme 19.1 Right to development, research and analysis

19.4 The primary objectives of this subprogramme will include promotion and protection of the right to development. In this regard, the objectives will be to develop an integrated and multidimensional strategy for the implementation, coordination and promotion of the right to development in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development and subsequent mandates and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, aimed at facilitating action to be taken by relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including treaty bodies, international development and financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of fundamental human rights, ensuring the realization of the right to development across the human rights programme and by specialized agencies and United Nations treaty bodies; to promote national implementation of the right to development through coordination with state-appointed officials; to identify obstacles at the national and international levels; and to promote awareness about the content and importance of the right to development, including through information and educational activities.

19.5 With regard to research and analysis, the objectives will be to strengthen respect for human rights by increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of human rights issues through data collection, research and analysis. These objectives will be pursued within the framework of the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and will be aimed at facilitating the implementation of standards, the work of treaty bodies, special rapporteurs and other bodies, the preparation of new standards, ensuring the recognition on the national and international level of economic, social and cultural rights, promoting democracy and strengthening national human rights institutions and procedures for the rule of law, contributing to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and new forms of discrimination, strengthening the recognition of the human rights of women and children, and the protection of vulnerable groups such as minorities, migrant workers and indigenous people.

Subprogramme 19.2 Supporting human rights bodies and organs

19.6 The objectives are to support the United Nations human rights bodies and organs and to facilitate their deliberations by ensuring and enhancing their effective functioning; to improve existing procedures through rationalization and streamlining, and the coordination of the participation of Governments, experts, specialized agencies, other international organizations, national institutions and non-governmental organizations in their work; and to ensure the analytical capacity of human rights treaty bodies for the review of State party reports under international treaties and for the processing of communications.

Subprogramme 19.3 Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities

19.7 In the area of advisory services and technical cooperation, the objectives are to assist countries, at their request, in developing comprehensive national plans of action to promote and protect human rights and to provide advice and support specific projects to promote respect for human rights; to develop a comprehensive and coordinated United Nations programme to help States in building and strengthening national structures for human rights promotion and protection; and to raise awareness and promote specialized knowledge about human rights through the organization of training courses, seminars and workshops, and the production of a wide range of educational, training and information material.

19.8 In the area of support to fact-finding bodies the objectives are to ensure the effective functioning of human rights monitoring mechanisms by assisting special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies, including through the preparation of information regarding alleged violations and situations for review and the provision of support for missions and meetings; and to enhance the efficiency of action by policy-making bodies by providing analytical information on human rights situations.

19.9 With respect to field activities, the objectives are to ensure the efficiency of field missions and presences through the maintenance of contacts with Governments, appropriate sectors of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and others by supporting and developing such activities through the development of training programmes and materials for human rights field staff and training in human rights for the appropriate components of other United Nations field operations.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 19.1 Right to development, research and analysis

General Assembly resolutions

41/128	Declaration on the right to development
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
48/141	High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights
49/179	Human rights and extreme poverty
49/186	Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
50/135	Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
50/136	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
50/139	Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination
50/153	The rights of the child
50/157	Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
50/174	Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity
50/179	Strengthening the rule of law
50/180	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities
50/181	Human rights in the administration of justice
50/183	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance
50/184	Right to development

50/185	Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization
50/201	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Economic and Social Council decision

1995/289	Question of integrating the human rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations

Commission on Human Rights resolution

1994/95	World Conference on Human Rights

Subprogramme 19.2 Supporting human rights bodies and organs

General Assembly resolutions

2106 A (XX)	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
2200 (XXI)	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
39/46	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
44/25	Convention on the Rights of the Child
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
48/141	High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights
50/169	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
50/170	Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights
50/171	International Covenants on Human Rights
50/174	Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity
50/201	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1503 (XLVIII)	Procedure for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms
1979/36	Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms
1990/48	Enlargement of the Commission on Human Rights and further promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Commission on Human Rights resolution

1994/95	World Conference on Human Rights

Subprogramme 19.3 Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities

General Assembly resolutions

926 (X)	Advisory services in the field of human rights
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
48/141	High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights
49/187	Development of public information activities in the field of human rights
49/189	Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights
50/174	Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity
50/176	National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights
50/177	United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education
50/185	Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

Economic and Social Council resolution

1235 (XLII)	Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

1994/53	Human rights and thematic procedures
1995/53	Advisory services and the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

20.1 The legislative authority for the programme derives from General Assembly resolutions 46/182, 52/12 B, 52/168 and 52/220 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/33. The programme is under the responsibility of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

20.2 The overall orientation of the programme is to ensure the timely, coherent and coordinated response of the international community to disasters and emergencies, including through effective use of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee; to promote natural disaster reduction in the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; to facilitate the elaboration of policies to guide the work of the humanitarian community, including, inter alia, the linkages between emergency relief, rehabilitation and development; and to advocate guiding principles of humanitarian assistance.

20.3 During the period covered by the plan, the focus will be on three core functions, which will be significantly strengthened:

(a) Policy development and coordination functions in support of the Secretary-General, ensuring that all humanitarian issues, including those which fall between gaps in existing mandates of agencies, such as protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, are addressed. In that connection, liaison will be maintained with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Group and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(b) Advocacy of humanitarian issues with political organs and relevant humanitarian partners and actors;

(c) Coordination of humanitarian emergency response, ensuring that appropriate response mechanisms are established on the ground following consultations in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

Subprogramme 20.1 Policy and analysis

20.4 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Policy and Analysis Branch of the Policy, Advocacy and Information Division is responsible, are as follows:

(a) To develop and coordinate United Nations system policies on humanitarian issues and to advocate humanitarian norms and policies;

(b) To serve as a joint secretariat for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs, ensuring an effective exchange of information and a process of consultation between the two committees;

(c) To promote the formulation and/or refinement of policy on access to and protection of victims of conflict; United Nations system responsibilities for internally displaced persons; the humanitarian interface with peacekeeping operations; security for humanitarian staff and supplies in conflict situations; the linkage between humanitarian action and the early commencement of post-conflict reintegration, reconstruction and rehabilitation activities; principles of engagement, suspension and disengagement for humanitarian agencies in the field; and other humanitarian issues that fall between gaps in existing mandates of agencies;

(d) To encourage increased joint programming and prioritizing of humanitarian action among agencies at the field level, thus enhancing the consolidated appeals process;

(e) To strengthen future humanitarian operations by promoting the application of lessons learned from the evaluation of the coordination of past humanitarian assistance operations;

(f) To advocate humanitarian issues with political organs and relevant humanitarian partners and actors;

(g) To fulfil the responsibility of the Emergency Relief Coordinator regarding humanitarian mine-clearance activities.

Subprogramme 20.2 Complex emergencies

20.5 The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Complex Emergency Response and Consolidated Appeal Process Branch in Geneva and the Emergency Liaison Branch in New York, focuses on two areas, pre-emergency operations and new complex emergencies.

20.6 During pre-emergency operations, the objectives are:

(a) To expand and improve existing mechanisms for information-sharing within the United Nations Secretariat, with specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian partners;

(b) To make better use of early warning information and more systematic contingency planning for humanitarian programmes;

(c) To develop further existing standby arrangements with outside providers of emergency staff and equipment to improve both the Department and systemic responses;

(d) To improve synergies and efficiencies between natural disaster and complex emergency staff within the Department by consolidating common services and joint development of standby arrangements.

20.7 In the event of a new complex emergency, the objective is to ensure a quick and adequate response. This includes:

(a) Continued refinements of existing consultation, needs assessment, planning and response mechanisms to act in the initial stages of a crisis while it is still relatively small scale;

(b) Establishment, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, of an appropriate response mechanism on the ground to coordinate humanitarian emergency action;

(c) Emphasis on early clarification of coordination structures;

(d) Improvements in the provision of support (staff, financial, logistic) to the Department's in-country coordinators through joint action with specialized agencies and use of external standby arrangements;

(e) Refinement of the consolidated appeal process as an instrument for programming as well as for resource mobilization for a specific emergency to enhance development of a humanitarian strategy that supports allocation of responsibilities, requests for resources and transition towards rehabilitation and reconstruction, in accordance with relevant legislative mandates;

(f) Increased use of information technologies to obtain and disseminate information on the humanitarian emergency.

Subprogramme 20.3 Natural disaster reduction

20.8 The Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, in particular its Plan of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, calls for reducing the vulnerability of populations at risk from natural disasters and similar emergencies through the integration of disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation into development planning at the local, regional and national levels. While the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989, is coming to an end in 1999, the need for a continuation in the future of a concerted and coordinated international effort to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters has been recognized by the Assembly in its resolutions 51/185 of 16 December 1996 and 52/200 of 18 December 1997. In this respect, decisions are to be taken by the Assembly on the division of responsibilities within the United Nations system on that coordination. Responsibilities for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness shall be undertaken by UNDP in accordance with Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997.

20.9 Subject to the outcome of the end-of-the-Decade review to be carried out by the General Assembly, the objectives of the subprogramme in the interim, to 31 December 1999, which would be pursued within a coordinated and concerted inter-agency approach, would be to promote:

(a) The integration of disaster reduction strategies into the national development processes of those countries most significantly affected by natural and similar hazards;

(b) Policy commitment and necessary technical support for disaster reduction practices, including through the appropriate application of science and technology at the country and regional levels;

(c) A concerted international framework for improvements in early warning capacities for natural and similar disasters, through shared knowledge and transfer of technology;

(d) Community involvement in the planning and implementation of disaster reduction measures;

Subprogramme 20.4 Disaster relief

20.10 The main focus of this subprogramme is to assist in mobilizing and coordinating international emergency relief to countries affected by natural or other sudden-onset disasters and to develop ways to strengthen international response capacity. Following an arrangement between UNEP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, this function also covers environmental emergencies when international assistance is not otherwise provided for under existing specialized conventions or programmes.

20.11 The subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Relief Coordination Branch and its objectives are as follows:

(a) The first objective is to strengthen the existing emergency response system for mobilizing and coordinating international assistance. The system currently consists of standby and contingency arrangements with international partners, the United Nations disaster assessment and coordination programme, the project on the use of military and civil defence assets in disaster relief, emergency telecommunications facilities and the central register of disaster management capacities. These response tools will be upgraded and modified to take into account such technological advances and new opportunities as national and regional disaster preparedness capacities develop. The subprogramme will continue its efforts to develop methodology, identify resources, train staff and representatives and strengthen cooperation between assisting and recipient countries;

(b) The second objective is to strengthen logistics support to the field by assuming coordination functions for storage of relief supplies and their emergency dispatch to disaster-stricken areas, and by promoting the development and application of customs measures to facilitate the speedy delivery of humanitarian assistance as well as regulatory measures to allow unhindered transboundary use of telecommunications equipment during relief operations;

(c) In view of rapid industrial development in different regions, coping with technological accidents and environmental emergencies will present a major challenge for future disaster management. The third objective is to meet this challenge by developing an environmental emergency service that will be available to Member States upon request. The integrated United Nations response capability of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and UNEP, established for this purpose, will be strengthened throughout the period covered by the plan.

Subprogramme 20.5 Humanitarian emergency information

20.12 Timely, pertinent and credible information on humanitarian issues must be available both to the Emergency Relief Coordinator and to the international community in order to permit accurate analysis of emergencies, provide a basis for effective decisions and assist in the development of policy and advocacy of humanitarian causes.

20.13 The objectives of the subprogramme, for which the Information Management Services Branch is responsible, are as follows:

(a) The first objective is to put in place an effective emergency information network system for preventive action, contingency planning and a timely, consistent and proactive response. To that effect, present arrangements for the collection, analysis and dissemination of emergency information within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will be strengthened. This will include further integration of the Humanitarian Early Warning System, the Integrated Regional Information Networks and ReliefWeb;

(b) The second objective is the formulation and implementation of information and communication strategies to promote the humanitarian action undertaken by the Department and to work in support of specific humanitarian causes. The intent is to ensure that Governments, non-governmental organizations and the emergency management community at large are kept regularly informed of major humanitarian issues, of the work of the Department on those issues and of the technical and financial needs of the Department to pursue its mandated tasks. Public information campaigns on key humanitarian subjects, such as the damage caused by landmines, will be developed. The provision of substantive information to the humanitarian community will be carried out, *inter alia*, through a carefully managed publications programme. A photographic library will also be developed;

(c) The third objective is to ensure that the best use is made of modern information technology and that emergency information is issued in an optimum, cost-effective manner. Through development and management of office automation tools and telecommunications systems, the Department's electronic document management system will be developed, including the necessary gateways to the Department's external partners and a modern file classification and records management system to permit instant retrieval of key humanitarian information. Particular attention will be paid to the development of standard electronic information collection and processing procedures, and to the operation and development of telecommunications links between the Department's headquarters and field offices, including staff training in the use of field communication facilities in complex emergencies.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 20.1 Policy and analysis

General Assembly resolutions

45/100	Humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations
46/182	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations
47/120	An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters
49/22	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
50/57	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
50/82	Assistance in mine clearance
52/12 A and B	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
52/168	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
52/171	Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development
52/220	Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1995/44	Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development
1995/56	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
1996/33	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Subprogramme 20.2 Complex emergencies

General Assembly resolutions

46/182	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations
47/120	An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters
50/57	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
50/58	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries and regions
50/88	Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security
50/134	Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster
52/169	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions
52/172	Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster
52/211 A and B	Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1995/56	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

1996/33	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Subprogramme 20.3 Natural disaster reduction

General Assembly resolutions

45/100	Humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations
46/182	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations
49/22	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
50/57	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
51/185	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
52/200	International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1995/47	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
1996/45	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Subprogramme 20.4 Disaster relief

General Assembly resolutions

45/100	Humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations
50/57	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
52/168	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1995/56	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
1996/33	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Subprogramme 20.5 Humanitarian emergency information

General Assembly resolutions

45/100	Humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations

46/182	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations
47/120	An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters
49/22	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
50/57	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
51/185	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
52/168	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
52/172	Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster
52/200	International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

PROGRAMME 21. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

21.1 The overall orientation of this programme is to provide international protection to refugees, to seek permanent solutions to their problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to people of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Assistance is one aspect of international protection and is a means of facilitating it. However, it is the pursuit of durable solutions to the problems of refugees that is the heart of protection and the principal objective of this programme.

21.2 The mandate for the programme is to be found in General Assembly resolutions 319 A (IV), by which the Assembly established UNHCR as from 1 January 1951, and 428 (V), containing the statute of the Office. The Assembly has also called upon the High Commissioner to provide assistance to returnees, as well as to monitor their safety and well-being on return (resolution 40/118). In addition, on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary-General or the competent principal organs of the United Nations, and with the consent of the State concerned, UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons (Assembly resolution 48/116). As regards the assistance activities of UNHCR, the basic provisions of the statute were expanded by the Assembly in its resolution 832 (IX).

21.3 The international legal basis for the protection of refugees finds its principal expression in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. In addition, there are a number of other international instruments of relevance to the protection of refugees, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989. At the regional level, there are also important instruments and declarations such as the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of the Organization of African Unity, the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, adopted by the Colloquium on the International Protection of Refugees in Central America, Mexico and Panama and the American Convention on Human Rights.

21.4 UNHCR will be responsible for the achievement of the objectives of this programme.

21.5 Those objectives are, of necessity, expressed in general terms: refugee outflows, as well as the opportunities to resolve them, are, for the most part, unpredictable. The broad approach to meet these objectives consists of a range of activities, to be pursued with a continued strong emphasis on improving efficiency, transparency and accountability. Notable among these are the following:

(a) The pursuit of comprehensive strategies, in cooperation with States and other organizations, aimed at both mitigating and preventing the causes of forced population movements, as well as finding solutions to them when they occur;

(b) The ongoing development of a legal regime of international protection, in particular through the promotion of accessions to international and regional instruments relating to the status of refugees or otherwise benefiting refugees, the effective implementation of refugee rights and the promotion and dissemination of refugee law and protection principles;

(c) The further development of contingency planning and emergency preparedness and response capabilities, in coordination with other organizations, so as to respond effectively and efficiently to situations of forced human displacement;

(d) The provision of humanitarian assistance in an environmentally sensitive manner and in such a way that it is supportive of and reinforces development initiatives to the extent possible; in addition, a concerted effort will be made to ensure that in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the particular needs and capacities of refugee women and the special situation of refugee children will be taken into account;

(e) The systematic follow-up to relevant recommendations in the plans of action emanating from recent international conferences.

21.6 These activities and strategies will be pursued through a range of general and special programmes under the guidance of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in accordance with its terms of reference as contained in General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII).

Subprogramme 21.1 International protection

21.7 During the period covered by the plan, this subprogramme will promote further accessions to relevant instruments, in particular the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and, where applicable, the withdrawal of the geographical limitation and other reservations made by States upon becoming parties to the 1951 Convention. A related objective will be to promote the inclusion of provisions favourable to refugees in general international instruments and in national legislation.

21.8 In order to ensure international protection to all who need it, UNHCR, with the support of Member States, will explore the development of further measures that are consistent with fundamental protection principles reflected in international instruments.

21.9 A further objective of this subprogramme will be to ensure the effective implementation of refugee rights, in particular those of refugee women and refugee children, through the widest possible observance by States of internationally accepted standards for the treatment of refugees, especially the fundamental principles of asylum and non-refoulement. This will involve working for the establishment by States of fair and efficient procedures for the determination of refugee status or, as appropriate, other mechanisms to ensure that persons in need of international protection are identified and granted such protection and to ensure that all persons seeking international protection are granted access to those procedures and mechanisms. To assure a more effective response to the protection needs of refugee women and children, another objective will be wider dissemination of the respective guidelines relating to refugee women and children, and a more concerted implementation of the guidelines.

21.10 As a result of concerns that statelessness, including the inability to establish one's nationality, may result in displacement, UNHCR will continue its activities on behalf of stateless persons. UNHCR will, in particular, actively promote accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1957 Agreement and 1973 Protocol relating to Refugee Seamen. In addition, it will strengthen the capacity of interested States to prepare and implement legislation on nationality through technical and advisory services.

21.11 Another objective of this subprogramme will be the promotion and dissemination of refugee law and protection principles, in particular through the training, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and other relevant organizations, and of governmental and non-governmental officials.

21.12 The final objective of this subprogramme is to help achieve permanent solutions to the problems of refugees. In that regard, UNHCR will promote the elaboration of more comprehensive regional approaches to resolve refugee situations and other forms of involuntary displacement, as appropriate. Of the classical durable solutions to refugee problems, namely, local settlement/integration, resettlement or voluntary repatriation, the preferred solution for UNHCR will be voluntary repatriation under conditions of safety and dignity, while attempts to formulate and implement appropriate regional solutions should be made.

Subprogramme 21.2 Assistance

21.13 UNHCR assistance in response to refugee situations embraces the following: emergency assistance, care and maintenance, local settlement and voluntary repatriation supported by reintegration assistance. In the provision of such assistance, the concern of UNHCR is that assistance, where possible, be delivered in such a way that it involves the recipients. In particular, it should tap the potential of refugee women. Where possible, relief should be given in such a way that it reinforces, rather than undermines, local capacities to cope. Another preoccupation of UNHCR is that assistance programmes should not interfere with or work against the return, as soon as feasible, to a process of sustainable development.

21.14 In providing humanitarian assistance, an objective of UNHCR is that it be delivered in an environmentally sound manner. To achieve this objective, UNHCR will closely adhere to the environmental policy adopted at the forty-sixth session (1995) of its Executive Committee, and as reflected in related operational guidelines.

21.15 A further objective will be to enhance the emergency preparedness and response mechanisms of UNHCR, bearing in mind the results of consultations pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/56 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. In close coordination with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR will further develop, with interested States, additional complementary emergency resources in the form of government service packages. In addition, UNHCR will give greater emphasis to specific preparedness measures at the country level, in particular through joint contingency planning in-country with operational partners, including provision for the integration of local resources into the planned response mechanisms.

21.16 To strengthen further the effectiveness and efficiency of its humanitarian assistance, UNHCR will establish, during the period covered by the plan, collaborative ventures with agencies having complementary mandates or competencies. In particular, new or revised memorandums of understanding will be developed with relevant United Nations organizations. Such memorandums of understanding will aim at ensuring predictable operational inputs to refugee/returnee programmes by those organizations which reflect their mandates and competencies.

21.17 Another objective under the programme will be to build on the Partnership in Action Declaration and Plan of Action (Oslo, 1994) and improve the partnership process with non-governmental organizations. UNHCR will also aim further to involve its implementing partners, both non-governmental and governmental, in programme planning and ensure that they receive the appropriate training and support to comply with conditions associated with the implementation of projects on behalf of UNHCR. In addition, UNHCR will ensure that procedures are put in place to monitor more effectively such compliance.

21.18 Among the beneficiaries of UNHCR humanitarian assistance, the Executive Committee has underlined the specific needs of refugee women and children. UNHCR believes that a concerted effort is necessary to ensure more effective implementation of its policies relating to refugee women and children in the field, even from the early phases of an emergency. During the period covered by the plan, this objective will be pursued, in particular through the provision of relevant training and related technical support.

21.19 The final objective of this subprogramme will be that the link between the broader development efforts and the practicability of proposed solutions, such as reintegration assistance in support of voluntary repatriation, should be established and adequately taken into account. In that regard, UNHCR, when elaborating solutions, will work closely with development entities and international financial institutions.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 21.1 International protection

Conventions and conference declarations

1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol

1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons

1957 Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen and its 1973 Protocol

1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa

American Convention on Human Rights (the "Pact of San José")

Cartagena Declaration on Refugees

Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25)

1994 San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons

General Assembly resolution

50/152 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Executive Committee report

Report of the forty-sixth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner (A/AC.96/860)

Subprogramme 21.2 **Assistance**

General Assembly resolution

50/152	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Economic and Social Council resolution

1995/56	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Executive Committee report

Progress report on the Guidelines on Refugees and the Environment (EC/SC.2/79)

Conference declaration

Partnership in Action Declaration and Plan of Action (Oslo, 1994)

Memoranda of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding with WFP

Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF

PROGRAMME 22. PALESTINE REFUGEES

22.1 The overall strategy for this programme is to provide assistance to the Palestine refugee population until matters are resolved. That assistance involves the provision of essential education, health and relief and social services to eligible Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNRWA will provide emergency relief assistance to the beneficiary population and respond to requests from the Palestinian Authority, host Governments and the Secretary-General as they arise, commensurate with available resources.

22.2 The mandate for this programme is General Assembly resolution 302 (IV), which established UNRWA as a separate entity within the United Nations system. By its resolution 3331 (XXIX) B, the General Assembly decided that, with effect from 1 January 1975, the expenses for salaries of international staff in the service of UNRWA that would otherwise be a charge on voluntary contributions should be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate, which has been repeatedly renewed, most recently until June 1999.

22.3 UNRWA reports directly to the General Assembly. Overall review of UNRWA programmes and activities is undertaken by the 10-member Advisory Commission, which includes representatives of the Agency's major donor and host Governments. The Advisory Commission has a working relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

22.4 The implementation of the overall strategy involves the provision of:

(a) Education services, to meet the basic educational needs of Palestine refugees and to enhance their educational opportunities;

(b) Health services, to meet the refugees' basic health needs and improve the overall state of health of their community;

(c) Relief and social services, to provide refugees with assistance in meeting their needs, in maintaining a reasonable standard of existence and in improving their capacity to become more self-reliant, thereby reducing their dependence on such assistance.

22.5 UNRWA entered a new era in its relationship with the Palestinian people with the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, and the extension of self-rule in the West Bank. It has rendered emergency relief assistance to Palestine refugees affected by the political turmoil in Lebanon since 1982 and thus provided similar emergency measures to refugees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of 1988. UNRWA will continue to maintain the services that it has provided for some 50 years while preparing for the eventual transfer of its installations, services and programmes to local authorities.

22.6 The Agency's concern for the self-reliance of the refugee community and its commitment to the long-term viability of the programmes that it will eventually transfer will make self-reliance and sustainability key themes of its activities. Where feasible and desirable, UNRWA will continue to introduce cost-sharing and self-support measures in its regular programmes, to ensure the efficient use of resources and to support participation by the beneficiary population in the provision of Agency services. The Agency will also continue to support human resource development activities, including vocational training and scholarships for higher education for Palestine refugees, commensurate with available resources. In the relief and social services sector, the Agency seeks to achieve the full community management of its women's programme centres, community rehabilitation centres and youth activity centres by 1999. It will continue to promote sustainable economic activity through its income-generation programme.

22.7 Under its peace implementation programme, UNRWA will continue to undertake projects to improve infrastructure and stabilize socio-economic conditions in the Agency's five fields of operation, in accordance with the needs of the refugee population and to the extent permitted by donor funds. Implementation of projects funded prior to 1998, including some that have already received funding, may extend into the period 1998-2001. The second phase of the peace implementation programme, now under way, is expected to be the last major investment initiative undertaken by the Agency.

22.8 The Agency's ability to carry out its work programme depends on voluntarily contributed funds being made available to it by the international community. UNRWA faces the principal challenge of maintaining the level of its services within those resources. As a result of inflation and natural growth in the refugee population, the Agency's budget has traditionally had to expand by 5 per cent per year in order to provide the same level of services. Accordingly, measures to streamline Agency operations and to achieve savings through localization of posts where appropriate and similar measures will be emphasized. The relocation of its headquarters from Vienna to the Gaza Strip in July 1996 will allow increased efforts in human resource development. The Agency's 22,000 area staff members or locally recruited staff, all of whom are paid from voluntary contributions, will play an increasing role in providing essential services to the Palestinian refugee community and in harmonizing services with those provided by the Palestinian public sector in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

302 (IV)	Assistance to Palestine refugees
50/28	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

PROGRAMME 23. PUBLIC INFORMATION

23.1 The overall objective of this programme is to promote an informed public understanding of the activities of the United Nations among the peoples of the world. Only through an informed public understanding can the Organization generate and sustain universal support for its mission. To achieve this objective, the Department of Public Information will communicate the message of the United Nations more clearly and persuasively to targeted audiences, such as the media, non-governmental organizations, business organizations, academic institutions, educational organizations and government agencies. The Department will take full advantage of all available channels of communication, such as the Internet, radio, television, print products, photo and other electronic media, as well as other outreach activities and services to the public, to publicize the activities of the Organization in such priority fields as peace and security, economic and social development and human rights and to provide timely and reliable information on the proceedings of United Nations organs, meetings and conferences, as well as on the activities of the Secretary-General. A major challenge will be to demonstrate the successes of the Organization and the relevance of every aspect of its work to the daily lives and concerns of people everywhere so that global public support may be strengthened. The Department will also strengthen its cooperation with United Nations substantive departments, offices, agencies, programmes and funds, which will be instrumental in the effective delivery of the United Nations message and the development of system-wide thematic information campaigns on priority issues of concern to the international community. Furthermore, in keeping with the Secretary-General's call for a communication culture to permeate all activities of the Organization, the Department will seek to ensure that the communication function is placed at the heart of strategic management of the Organization.

23.2 Building on the Secretary-General's reform programme, as set out in his report of 14 July 1992 (A/51/950), General Assembly resolutions 52/12 A of 12 November 1997 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, and the recommendations of the Task Force on the Reorientation of the United Nations Public Information Activities, the Department will develop and pursue a strategy of placing the communications function at the heart of the strategic management of the Organization and consolidating all communications activities under a strong senior leadership that would be part of the Secretary-General's immediate team. The goals of that strategy are to turn the United Nations into an effective, modern, communications-oriented organization; to strengthen the Organization's capacity to communicate at the country level so that the global messages, activities and information of the United Nations both reflect and are tailored to a meaningful local context; and to create a culture of communications throughout the Organization with responsibility for public diplomacy being borne by all senior officials, ambassadors and the larger United Nations family.

23.3 With guidance from the Committee on Information, which oversees its work, the Department of Public Information will be responsible for the implementation of this programme. The original and principal mandate for the programme is contained in General Assembly resolution 13 (I), in which it is stated that public information activities should be undertaken to promote to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world. This mandate has been further elaborated in subsequent resolutions of the Assembly on questions relating to information, the most recent of which are resolutions 50/31 A and B, 51/138 A and B and 52/70 A and B. In resolution 50/31 B, the Assembly reaffirmed that the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, should be strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the priority areas defined by the Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information.

23.4 The activities under this programme include:

(a) Strategic planning and implementation of communications strategies for political, economic and social development, human rights and humanitarian issues of priority to the United Nations;

(b) Enhancement of close coordination within the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system in the implementation of public information activities through a common approach;

(c) Development and production of information materials on the work and achievements of the Organization and their timely distribution in standards, formats, languages and other modes of transmission that maximize their use by the targeted audiences of the United Nations;

(d) Implementation of public information activities in the field through the network of United Nations information centres and services, as well as United Nations associations and other non-governmental organizations, national and international media, educational institutions and the business community;

(e) Provision of public information services to target audiences such as opinion-shapers and policy makers, publishers, media representatives and others involved in disseminating information materials;

(f) Making information on international situations and broad trends, as well as overall media coverage of the United Nations, available in a comprehensive and timely manner to the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Organization;

(g) Development and utilization of a global communications capability directly accessible by audiences around the world;

(h) Production, promotion and sale of recurrent and other institutional publications, including bibliographic information in print and electronic formats;

(i) Providing delegations, Secretariat units and other official groups with the library materials and information required for their work with the greatest possible speed, convenience and economy;

(j) Coordination of publications policies and the management of the publications programme of the United Nations through the Publications Board;

(k) Monitoring and evaluation of information activities with a view to ensuring optimum effectiveness.

23.5 It is anticipated that the implementation of this programme will lead to a greater understanding of the principles and objectives of the United Nations, as well as to the enhancement of its image as an effective Organization capable of carrying out the tasks mandated by the General Assembly and directed by the Secretary-General, and, above all, as an Organization capable of making substantive contributions to meet the needs of the peoples of the world and challenges posed by a rapidly changing international environment.

Subprogramme 23.1 Promotional services

23.6 The Department will continue highlighting issues of major concern to the international community in order to promote a positive understanding of the United Nations and its work and strengthened public support for its goals. The subprogramme will be carried out by the Promotion and Public Services Division, the Library and Publications Division, the Media Division and the United Nations information centres and services in relation to their programmes of work.

23.7 The primary objective of the subprogramme is to promote an informed positive public understanding of the activities of the United Nations and to help build broad-based global support for the Organization's goals by highlighting the priority issues of concern to the international community. The major challenge in this regard will be the ability to reflect effectively and in a timely manner the activities, successes and performance of the Organization and the relevance of every aspect of its work to the daily lives and concerns of people everywhere.

23.8 Some long-standing world problems persist, and an informed understanding among the peoples of the world is still needed and remains one of the objectives of the Department. This is especially true in the areas of peace, security and disarmament; the question of Palestine; self-determination and decolonization; human rights, including racial discrimination; and development.

23.9 In keeping with the Secretary-General's emphasis on building a system-wide culture of communications and on placing the communications and information functions at the heart of the strategic management of the Organization, a second objective of the subprogramme will be building partnerships within the Secretariat and the United Nations system. Forging partnerships at the headquarters and field levels and with other departments and organizations of the United Nations system will be instrumental in the effective delivery of United Nations messages and in building an informed and supportive constituency. It is also essential for attaining the third key objective, the development and implementation of system-wide thematic information campaigns on priority issues of concern to the international community. At the local and regional levels, United Nations information centres will be responsible for implementation of the information programmes, taking into account local priorities and the views of the host Governments.

23.10 Equally important is the fourth objective of the subprogramme, the strengthening of partnerships with the Department's key constituencies, which are the targets of its thematic information campaigns. A particular focus of such efforts must be media institutions. The media are a key and indispensable partner in projecting United Nations messages to a worldwide audience. A strong, activist media orientation will be a priority for every activity under this subprogramme. In addition to developing information material for the media, long-term working relationships with journalists covering specific issues of concern to the United Nations will continue to be developed with a view to fostering greater understanding and interest in the Organization's work and, ultimately, to encouraging the publication or broadcast in the media of feature stories and reports about the work of the United Nations in such priority fields as peace and security, disarmament, the question of Palestine, self-determination and decolonization, economic and social development and human rights. To foster such relationships, the Department would provide the media with story ideas and background information both at Headquarters and through the United Nations information centres and services.

23.11 Fostering stronger relationships with another key constituency, non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society, such as educational institutions and professional and business organizations, will also require a proactive approach. The Department will work with representative elements of civil society that are actively engaged with the United Nations, as well as to mobilize new constituencies.

23.12 The sixth objective of the subprogramme will be to strengthen the capability to provide authoritative, accurate and timely information in response to media comments and instances of misinformation about the Organization. In close cooperation with other departments and offices of the Secretariat, multimedia information programmes will be developed to enhance public understanding of the United Nations.

23.13 The ability of the United Nations to communicate its message effectively will depend largely on how well it packages and presents its operations to its key constituencies in a timely and, in particular for the media, news-oriented manner. The construction of a more effective multimedia delivery system is therefore the seventh key objective of the subprogramme. In that regard, the Department will continue to enhance its capacity to use the Internet to its full potential. The Department will also continue to strengthen its capacity as the department responsible for coordinating, managing and providing public information content for the United Nations Web site. At the same time, the traditional media - print, radio and television - will continue to receive high priority to ensure outreach to all countries.

23.14 The eighth objective will be further to enhance public interest in the work and activities of the Organization through the promotion of educational programmes and the development of school curricula about the United Nations, training programmes for journalists, symposia with media and government partners, exhibitions and guided tours. The Department's programme of advocacy will also make greater efforts to work with celebrities and public figures to promote awareness of United Nations issues and concerns and to mobilize support for the work of the Organization.

Subprogramme 23.2 Information services

23.15 The Department will continue to serve as the vital link between the United Nations and the news media, as well as with other redisseminators at Headquarters and in the field, by providing timely, comprehensive, balanced and reliable information on the proceedings of United Nations organs, important United Nations meetings and conferences, as well as on the activities of the Secretary-General. The subprogramme will be carried out by the Media Division, the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General and the network of United Nations information centres, services and offices.

23.16 A major objective of this subprogramme will be to meet the increasing needs for information on the activities of the Organization, including those undertaken by the Secretary-General and senior officials. This will entail preparing press releases and news summaries - in English and French - for use by the press, delegations and the Secretariat, and providing radio and television coverage of United Nations events at Headquarters and in the field, producing radio and television news and feature programmes for distribution to broadcasting organizations worldwide and providing photographs and photo features on the activities of the Organization.

23.17 The second objective of the subprogramme is to develop a timely and more effective news-gathering and delivery system to be built around the concept of a multimedia central news desk with stronger news-gathering and timely distribution capacity tied to the global daily news cycle. A starting point would be the development of the Daily Highlights into a news service, using the Internet and other channels of rapid communication as a delivery mechanism. The system will contribute to the strengthening of the Department's rapid media response capacity.

23.18 The third objective of the subprogramme is to develop a system of coordinated delivery of information across different media by electronic means. This will entail the development of advanced digital technology, computerizing all audio-visual material to ensure availability on demand.

23.19 Enhancing partnerships and programme exchange with national and international radio and television broadcasters is the fourth objective of the subprogramme. The Department will strengthen and enhance its successful initiative with international broadcasters in jointly covering United Nations activities at Headquarters and in the field.

23.20 The fifth objective of the subprogramme is to further develop the multimedia section of the Internet to achieve a fully automated and integrated system that can deliver high-quality audio, photo and video material on demand. Emphasis will be placed on using the Internet to maximize outreach activities to strengthen the understanding of the goals of the United Nations among target audiences. Through the United Nations in-house Intranet, the Department will continue to provide constantly updated information on United Nations topics and other international situations.

23.21 The sixth objective will be the provision of authoritative and timely information by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General to media representatives at Headquarters. Daily information on the activities of the Secretary-General and the work of the Organization relating to peacekeeping and peacemaking, humanitarian assistance and a wide range of economic and social issues is essential if the media is to reflect comprehensively and accurately the role of the Organization in all areas of its mandates and responsibilities.

23.22 The seventh objective of the subprogramme will be to meet regional and local needs by providing timely and adaptable information materials through the United Nations information centres and services to ensure access to information about the Organization by local audiences and to facilitate proactive information activities by the network of centres and services, and other United Nations field offices. To broaden outreach, the development by the United Nations information centres of home pages in local languages will be further encouraged and supported.

23.23 The eighth objective of the subprogramme is to seek ways and means for the development of a United Nations international radio broadcasting capacity for direct communication with United Nations constituencies. This will allow for a direct, far-reaching and cost-effective information delivery mechanism that will be immediately available for the entire United Nations system and the leadership of the Organization, particularly in times of crisis. The system will also support the public information needs of peacekeeping operations and humanitarian emergency situations, in particular at their start-up stage.

23.24 The ninth objective of the subprogramme will be to monitor international situations and trends as reflected in the media, as well as coverage of the work of the Organization by major media networks, to ensure that the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Organization are kept informed of developments on the international scene in a comprehensive and timely manner.

Subprogramme 23.3 Library services

23.25 The purpose of the subprogramme is to provide reference, information and research services, as well as cartographic information services, to delegates, missions of Member States, staff members, researchers and depository libraries worldwide and to maintain, preserve and make available an archival collection of United Nations documents and publications, as well as a collection of United Nations oral history tapes and transcripts. This entails continued modernization of the services of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library through available technology and upgrading on a continuous basis, including the implementation of an integrated library management system for all United Nations libraries. The subprogramme is carried out by the Library and Publications Division and the network of United Nations information centres and services.

23.26 The major objective of the subprogramme is to facilitate access to and use of library services. This will be achieved by supplying bibliographic and factual information about the Organization and its work and by introducing innovative and user-oriented reference technologies and research services, including training programmes for missions of Member States, United Nations reference assistants and librarians, and information officers. The United Nations system consortium, which was initiated by the Department and established in 1997 for the purpose of sharing the costs of and access to electronic sources of information throughout the United Nations system of organizations and securing volume-driven reductions in subscription rates, will be maintained and expanded.

23.27 A second objective of the subprogramme will be to increase the capacity of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library to provide user-friendly services throughout the library system. This includes:

(a) Strengthening of the system of depository libraries in all regions and creating linkages among them for wider dissemination of United Nations information materials;

(b) Development of a network of United Nations libraries and sharing and indexing of United Nations documents;

(c) Access to external electronic information resources.

23.28 A third objective will be to establish better standards of bibliographic control so as to improve in-house production and processing of data for use by delegates, missions of Member States, staff members and academic institutions, as well as researchers on specific United Nations topics. This will entail issuing multilingual reference tools in print and non-print formats, maximizing the use of electronic services to facilitate access to databases in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and coordinating interdepartmental electronic services and databases with Secretariat-wide access. It will also entail standardizing bibliographic control over United Nations documents and publications, and the introduction of an Integrated Library Management System, which takes full advantage of the Secretariat's local area network infrastructure and client/server technology. Access to the full text of United Nations documents in the six official languages will be further facilitated by enhanced links between the optical disk system and the indexing records of the United Nations Bibliographic Information System (UNBIS). The expansion of the UNBIS Thesaurus will permit searching in the official languages of the Organization. Further, a programme to be put in place for conversion of older United Nations documents from microfiche to digital format will enable their uploading to the optical disk system and to the United Nations Web site.

23.29 A fourth objective will be to continue to provide map-making, map reference and geographical information services in support of substantive activities of the Secretariat, as well as editorial control services for all map issuances under the United Nations imprint system-wide. Microfilming of the cartographic archives and improving map library services will also continue. The expanding role of digital data exchange in the day-to-day operation of most programmes will require the improvement of existing products, such as the country-profile maps, and the development of new ones with interactive and multi-use attributes. Upgrades to cartography and the map collection will be made to facilitate these services. A geographic data library will be built and standards for geographic data to be used by the United Nations will be compiled and implemented. Efforts will also be made to strengthen the network of geographical information system (GIS) professionals throughout the Organization to facilitate the sharing of information via GIS Web server technology.

23.30 In conjunction with the implementation of the three subprogrammes, electronic dissemination of information is of increasingly crucial importance for the work of the Department. Major increases in outreach are made through established databases on the Internet, as more hypertext links are established around the world through high-quality broadcast telephone lines as well as via satellite. This development will enable the Department to deliver high-quality information products while keeping abreast of advancing industry standards.

Subprogramme 23.4 Publication services

23.31 The Library and Publications Division is responsible for implementing this subprogramme. Its major objective will be to focus on the production of authoritative, fact-based, high-quality publications that showcase the vitality of the Organization's involvement in the major challenges of our time, as well as providing efficient design and production coordination services for the Secretariat. These publications will include not only institutional reference guides and news-oriented periodicals, but also publications designed to correct public misperceptions about the work of the Organization and more advocacy-driven outputs. All publications will be produced in close collaboration with substantive departments. Despite the proliferation of other powerful media, there continues to be a need for authoritative publications because of their broad, long-term impact on opinion and policy. Designed to promote the United Nations, both as an invaluable source of information on all the important areas of international concern and as a central actor in promoting peace and development, the publications will be addressed primarily to disseminators of information. The Department's continuing role as chair of the Publications Board will further enhance the overall effort to prioritize publications, as well as sharpen their focus, and to avoid duplication. High quality, cost-effectiveness and speed of production will be significantly enhanced by the use of desk-top publishing technology, universally deployed throughout the Department, and by greater reliance on internal reproduction facilities. Advanced information technologies, in particular the Internet, will be used to reach potentially vast new audiences with timely information about the United Nations.

23.32 A further objective of the subprogramme will be to establish important channels of dissemination of information about the work and the role of the Organization through the promotion and sale of United Nations publications. This will be done through United Nations bookstores and other contracted vendors worldwide, as well as through the establishment of new publishing partnerships to further expand outreach and sales. A related objective is to increase revenue so as to recover costs through a dissemination policy that balances sales and free distribution.

23.33 Revenues accruing from the sale of United Nations publications by the Organization's bookstores in New York, Geneva and Vienna, will be enhanced through the pursuit of new markets and specific readerships, the introduction of a programme of book reviews, measures to improve accounting and billing systems, the application of appropriate pricing policies and enhanced coordination with both author departments and book agents. As part of its mandate, the Publications Board will continue to review and revise, as necessary, policies governing the preparation, production, distribution and sale of United Nations publications. Based on sales performance and feedback from readership, the sales services will advise author departments on improving the quality of their publications in order to reach as wide a readership as possible and generate maximum sale of successful titles. The upgrading and modernization of the bookstores, at Headquarters in the first instance, will aim at attracting more customers.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

13 (I)	Organization of the Secretariat
595 (VI)	Public information activities of the United Nations
1086 (XI)	Public information activities of the United Nations
1177 (XII)	Public information activities of the United Nations
1335 (XIII)	Public information activities of the United Nations
1405 (XIV)	Public information activities of the United Nations
1558 (XV)	Public information activities of the United Nations
2897 (XXVI)	Review and appraisal of the United Nations information policies and activities
3535 (XXX)	United Nations public information policies and activities
34/182	Questions relating to information
50/31	Questions relating to information
52/12 A and B	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
52/70	Questions relating to information

52/220	Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 23.1 Promotional services

General Assembly resolutions

50/81	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/84 C	Question of Palestine: Department of Public Information of the Secretariat
50/113	Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21
50/130	Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system
50/141	International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages
50/169	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
50/176	National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights
50/183	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance
50/185	Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

Subprogramme 23.2 Information services

General Assembly resolutions

50/29 A	Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories
50/33	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination
50/40	Dissemination of information on decolonization
50/84 B	Question of Palestine: Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat
50/107	Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

50/145	Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime an the Treatment of Offenders
50/157	Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Socia Development
50/170	Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights
50/171	International Covenants on Human Rights
50/176	National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights
50/180	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities
50/183	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

Subprogramme 23.3 Library services

General Assembly resolutions

356 (IV)	Budget appropriations for the financial year 1950
3047 (XXVII)	Revenue-producing activities

Subprogramme 23.4 Publication services

General Assembly resolutions

50/31	Questions relating to information
50/81	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/157	Programme of activities for the International Decade of th World's Indigenous People

PROGRAMME 24. MANAGEMENT AND CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICES

24.1 The overall objectives of this programme are to provide effective management support for the substantive programmes of the Organization and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in managing administrative, financial and human resources.

24.2 The Secretariat seeks to achieve those objectives, with full respect for the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly, by:

(a) Formulating and implementing improved management policies;

(b) Providing management guidance to programme managers, so as to enhance the effectiveness of managerial activities throughout the Secretariat;

(c) Ensuring sound financial management of the resources of the Organization;

(d) Managing the human resources of the Organization effectively;

(e) Assuring continued essential services in the areas of security and safety, information technology support and telecommunications, procurement and transportation services and building management, as well as archive and record management services.

24.3 The Department of Management at Headquarters and the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi are responsible for the implementation of this programme and for the achievement of its objectives.

24.4 The mandate for the programme lies in the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General by the Charter of the United Nations, specifically Article 97, which designates the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization. In addition, the Financial Regulations and Rules, the Staff Regulations and Rules, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and General Assembly resolutions 41/213, 42/211, 43/213, 44/200, 45/254, 46/232, 47/212 and 48/218 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations provide the basis for carrying out the objectives.

24.5 The recent adoption by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General's programme of reform in resolutions 52/12 B and 52/220 creates a new direction for this programme and the Department. Under the new management approach, administrative functions will be delegated and carried out where operations take place to a substantially greater degree than before, leaving central management to concentrate on policy development, guidance and monitoring of compliance, while certain services such as central support services will be retained as a part of its functions.

Subprogramme 24.1 Management services

Policy analysis, review and reporting

24.6 As part of the Secretary-General's programme of reform and in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, a strategic management policy team to be supported by a Management Policy Office was established. The role of the strategic management policy team, or Management Policy Committee, which is under the responsibility of the Under-Secretary-General for Management and the three Assistant Secretaries-General of the Department, is to ensure that management reform is being carried out evenly across the Secretariat.

24.7 The Management Policy Office will ensure an integrated approach to the Secretary-General's proposals for increasing efficiency and cost-effectiveness and the relevant decisions of the General Assembly thereon throughout the Organization. This will involve the review and analysis of management issues and systems, covering financial and human resources, support services, information technology and other administrative aspects. In addition, the Office will institute a management reporting and monitoring capability.

24.8 The objectives related to this part of the subprogramme are:

(a) To provide policy advice and support to the work of the Management Policy Committee, whose role is to ensure that all management reform is carried out;

(b) To develop reports for senior management, including the Management Policy Committee, and legislative bodies on management reform;

(c) To develop effective communications and transparent consultations with Member States on management reform issues;

(d) To develop a programme of simplification of administrative processes, procedures and rules aimed at reducing the burden of administration, with full respect for the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly;

(e) To develop an effective periodic reporting and monitoring system and related procedures;

(f) To assist departments in the establishment of a six-month planning and evaluation capacity;

(g) To provide advice to departments in developing performance measurement standards and analytical performance reports, with full respect for the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly.

Financial management

24.9 The financial situation of the Organization will continue to require very close attention. The non-payment and late payment of assessments to the regular budget, peacekeeping operations and international tribunals have precipitated the current financial situation and have undercut capacity to implement activities. At the same time, effective management of the limited financial resources available to the Organization, which necessitates constant monitoring of established financial policies and procedures and the revision of financial policies as circumstances warrant, is more essential than ever.

24.10 This part of the subprogramme is implemented by the Contributions Section, Treasury and the Oversight Support Unit, in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management. The objectives related to this part of the subprogramme are:

(a) To facilitate the work of the Committee on Contributions, and of the General Assembly with respect to questions related to the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, through the provision of technical services;

(b) To improve the timeliness of receipt of assessed and voluntary contributions;

(c) To enhance the quality of management information, as well as to ensure the earliest possible issuance of periodic and ad hoc reports to Member States on the financial situation;

(d) To improve the capacity to monitor and forecast the Organization's cash flow and to develop strategies to deal with anticipated problems in that regard;

(e) To ensure the timely receipt and safe custody of cash resources;

(f) To increase the earnings potential of funds under management;

(g) To improve the payment systems in order to streamline processing, reduce costs and enhance security;

(h) To enhance control mechanisms that protect the payment systems, bank account balances and investments of the Organization;

(i) To ensure that cash concentration benefits are achieved;

(j) To ensure the effectiveness of internal control and to maintain close liaison and follow-up with the Board of Auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Joint Inspection Unit, so as to ensure that remedial action is taken whenever and wherever required.

Administration of justice

24.11 The Staff Regulations and Rules regulate decision-making with regard to the contractual situation, obligations and entitlement of all international civil servants. Given the diverse background of the staff, the assurance of its efficiency and morale is particularly dependent on the transparency of procedures and equality of treatment. Furthermore, the jurisdictional immunity of the Organization legally obligates it to have just and effective internal administration processes.

24.12 This part of the subprogramme is implemented by the secretariat of the Joint Appeals Board and Joint Disciplinary Committees, the Panels of Counsel and the Panels on Discrimination and Other Grievances in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. The related objectives are:

(a) To ensure and facilitate the functioning of a simplified, yet efficient and effective, internal justice system in the Secretariat;

(b) To advise the Secretary-General on the final decision on any appeal by staff members against an administrative decision or against disciplinary action;

(c) To provide administrative support services to the bodies designated for recourse and disciplinary matters: Joint Appeals Boards, Joint Disciplinary Committees, Grievance Panels and Panels of Counsel;

(d) To ensure implementation of judgements of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal.

Subprogramme 24.2 Programme planning, budget and accounts

24.13 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations and from the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 41/213, 42/211 and 49/233 and the biennial resolutions on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The subprogramme is implemented by the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts.

24.14 The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To ensure sound financial management of the regular budget, peacekeeping and extrabudgetary resources of the Organization and the effective monitoring and management of the cash flow, and to improve transparency in the presentation of all accounts of the United Nations to facilitate the deliberations and decision-making of intergovernmental bodies;

(b) To facilitate intergovernmental deliberations and decision-making on relevant aspects of planning, programming, budgeting and accounts of the Organization, for regular budget, peacekeeping and extrabudgetary activities;

(c) To improve the translation of legislative mandates into plans and programme budgets that facilitate the effective management, implementation and monitoring of the Organization's activities and expenditures, in order to accomplish the objectives of the programmes;

(d) To strengthen and improve the administration of, and compliance with, the Financial Regulations and Rules, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning and the Programme Aspects of the Budget and other policies and directives to ensure proper and economical use of the resources of the Organization;

(e) To ensure accuracy and timeliness in the maintenance of all accounts of the United Nations;

(f) To strengthen and improve the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping operations with a view to ensuring efficient and cost-effective use of resources;

(g) To improve the application of budgetary techniques, methodology, procedures and guidelines for the regular budget, peacekeeping budgets and extrabudgetary resources, in accordance and in full compliance with General Assembly resolutions and decisions;

(h) To improve accuracy and timeliness in the collection and recording of financial data, financial reporting and payments/reimbursements to Governments, vendors and other contractors and staff;

(i) To facilitate the deliberations and decision-making of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on Management and Finance;

(j) To improve the administration of the group health and life insurance programme and the procedures for the settlement of claims for property loss and damage, and compensation for injuries, illness or death attributable to the performance of official duties on behalf of the Organization.

Subprogramme 24.3 Human resources management

24.15 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from Articles 8, 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and from a series of General Assembly resolutions.

24.16 The primary objective of this subprogramme is to continue to develop, implement and sustain a modern human resources management system that ensures that the Secretariat can carry out its functions efficiently and effectively. The Office of Human Resources Management, working with managers worldwide, is responsible for achieving the objectives of this subprogramme, which are:

(a) To develop human resources management policies to underpin a management culture that enables staff to perform to their maximum potential in an output-oriented Secretariat through a fully operational work-based performance appraisal and management system; a supportive, harassment-free work environment; empowerment of managers through delegated authority, in an operational system of accountability, responsibility and recognition; streamlined and clear regulations, rules and procedures to enhance efficiency, transparency, consistency and communication in their application, and establishment of career development policy in the Secretariat with regard to all types of appointments and with due consideration to adequate balance between permanent and fixed-term appointments; and to continue with the practice of secondment of qualified personnel by Member States to the Secretariat under relevant regulations established by the General Assembly;

(b) To undertake strategic human resources planning, drawing on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) through the development and introduction of streamlined organizational structures, job and staff skill inventories; effective vacancy management and staffing contingency planning systems; and succession planning schemes;

(c) To examine recruitment methods and improve responsiveness to Secretariat needs and to ensure the expeditious filling of vacancies, while identifying high-calibre recruits and ensuring the broadest representation of Member States and to continue to hold national competitive examinations as a useful tool to select the best qualified candidates;

(d) To strengthen further the provision of comprehensive operational services through the integrated delivery of services responsive to the needs of managers and staff in the Secretariat and development of emergency response teams for improved responsiveness in emergency situations;

(e) To maintain responsive health and wellness programmes to ensure physical and mental fitness of staff with a view to improved staff morale and productivity;

(f) To develop, raise awareness of and monitor the implementation of policies and strategies to achieve gender balance and provide equal opportunity for all staff;

(g) To implement conditions of service approved by the General Assembly, and to take effective action on work/life issues in order to attract and retain appropriately qualified, high-performing staff;

(h) To design and conduct training programmes to develop and maintain staff capacities and skills, including language skills, enabling the Secretariat to adjust to changing organizational needs to deal with emergency situations and achieve mandated goals through the use of versatile staff with up-to-date and high-calibre professional knowledge and competencies, including thorough cross-training; a complement of mission-ready staff, who are prepared for intense conflict situations, including conflict resolution; and staff with stronger organizational, management (especially people management) and administrative skills;

(i) To continue to develop an effective internal system of justice directed towards the rapid and professional reconciliation of disputes and the efficient handling of appeals and disciplinary cases subject to further consideration by and prior approval of the General Assembly.

Subprogramme 24.4 Support services

24.17 The overall objectives of this subprogramme are to ensure continued essential services to support substantive programmes and conferences, in the areas of security and safety, information technology support and telecommunications, procurement and transportation services, and building management, as well as archive and record management services.

Security and safety services

24.18 In the field of security and safety, the objectives are:

(a) To ensure the protection of individuals and property at all duty stations;

(b) To strengthen security strategies in order to provide a safe environment in which the Organization can carry out its work;

(c) To improve the training programmes for field security staff;

(d) To monitor inspections of offices away from Headquarters.

Integrated Management Information System and information technology services

24.19 A strategic technology plan for the Organization is being developed to serve as a strong and reliable worldwide infrastructure for data processing, office automation and telecommunications, achieving economies of scale through the application of standards in all areas. This strategic plan will also provide the framework for all areas of the Secretariat to allow for a coordinated and consistent approach in the development of their applications while maintaining the flexibility required for their specific activities.

24.20 The infrastructure developed for the implementation of IMIS will form the basis for the establishment of the overall information technology of the Organization. The use of the system by other entities of the United Nations system will also require the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate the harmonization of policies and procedures among organizations and to pull resources together for the maintenance and expansion of the system.

24.21 The objectives in this area, subject to prior approval of the General Assembly, are as follows:

(a) To develop a strategic technology plan;

(b) To complete the transition to modern technologies both in the area of data processing and in telecommunications;

(c) To consolidate the implementation of the Integrated Management Information System.

Buildings and commercial services

24.22 The objectives of building management are to provide effective and efficient planning, management, maintenance and operation for all existing premises, infrastructure and electronic broadcast and conference engineering expertise, to upgrade these facilities periodically and to support all meeting facilities at Headquarters locations.

24.23 The objective of commercial activities is to provide efficient and effective management for the income-producing activities of the United Nations, including the catering and gift shop operations. For the Postal Administration, the objectives are to publicize the work of the Organization and its specialized agencies through the sale of postage stamps and to optimize income by developing better marketing strategies.

Procurement and transportation

24.24 The objective in this area is to restructure the procurement and transportation function to provide the Organization with more responsive, expeditious and cost-effective procurement of goods and services for Headquarters, regional offices and field missions and, in this regard, to ensure competitive, fair and transparent processes.

24.25 The objectives of this area are as follows:

(a) To achieve an optimal match between resource input and service output through training, a rotation system between Headquarters and field missions, and participation in various trade seminars and conferences sponsored by professional recognized associations;

(b) To develop and maintain a database comprising suppliers from all geographical regions of the world by introducing a simplified and transparent mode of registration as well as procedures for the deletion of outdated information;

(c) To diversify the database by a continual search for new suppliers through solicitations to Member States and to provide responses to new suppliers' direct applications;

(d) To develop a computer program to select registered suppliers from all geographical regions to ensure competitiveness, transparency and equity during procurement exercises;

(e) To improve further upon the methodology for uniform practices and procedures in evaluation of bids and awarding of contracts.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 24.1 Management services

Charter of the United Nations

General Assembly resolutions

41/213	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations
42/211	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213

Subprogramme 24.2 Programme planning, budget and accounts

Charter of the United Nations

General Assembly resolutions

41/213	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations
42/211	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213
49/233	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Subprogramme 24.3 Human resources management

Charter of the United Nations

General Assembly resolutions

49/167	Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat
49/222 A and B	Human resources management

Subprogramme 24.4 Support services

General Assembly resolutions

43/217	Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989
44/201	Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991

PROGRAMME 25. INTERNAL OVERSIGHT

25.1 The general orientation of the programme is to attain more effective implementation of programmes and better internal control of the Organization by assisting the Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities with respect to staff and other resources of the Organization.

25.2 The mandate for the programme derives from the responsibility of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the United Nations, entrusted to him under Article 97 of the Charter. The mandate specific to his responsibility for internal oversight derives from General Assembly resolution 48/218 B, articles V and VI of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987)), and relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations (ST/SGB/Financial Rules/1/Rev.3 (1985)).

25.3 The Office of Internal Oversight Services will be responsible for the implementation of this programme. The responsibilities of the Office will extend to the resources and staff of the Organization.

25.4 The work of the Office helps the Organization and Member States ensure compliance of the programmes with resolutions, regulations, rules and policies, monitor programme implementation and evaluate the results achieved, promote economy and efficiency, and prevent and detect waste, abuse, malfeasance and mismanagement.

25.5 In carrying out its work, the overall approach of the Office is aimed at:

(a) Promoting greater effectiveness and efficiency of programme management;

(b) Enhancing management of human and financial resources of the Organization;

(c) Facilitating more transparent assignment of responsibility and accountability;

(d) Protecting the assets of the Organization.

25.6 In the course of its programme implementation, care will be taken to ensure that the Office coordinates its activities with the Board of Auditors of the United Nations, the Panel of External Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit. The Office will also maintain a close working relationship with other inspection and oversight services in the United Nations system.

Subprogramme 25.1 Central evaluation

25.7 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To facilitate the intergovernmental bodies to assess, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the activities of programmes in relation to their objectives;

(b) To enable the Secretariat and Member States to engage in systematic reflections, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the main programmes of the Organization by altering their content and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives;

(c) To assist the departments and offices in the Secretariat in implementing approved evaluation recommendations;

(d) To support the evaluation activities of departments and offices.

25.8 The Central Evaluation Unit will be responsible for this subprogramme.

25.9 Achievement of the above objectives is expected to enable the Secretariat and Member States to improve the implementation of activities and programmes of the Organization. It is also expected that programme managers will realize the benefits of self-evaluation and utilize it fully as a management tool.

Subprogramme 25.2 Audit and management consulting

25.10 The subprogramme will seek to guarantee the implementation of programmes and legislative mandates by promoting efficient administrative and financial functioning of the Organization and by preventing waste and mismanagement.

25.11 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To ascertain compliance by programme managers with the financial and administrative regulations and rules as well as with the approved recommendations of external oversight bodies;

(b) To promote effective discharge by programme managers of their responsibilities and to ensure that programme managers are given necessary methodological support;

(c) To improve the structure of the Organization and its responsiveness to the requirements of programmes and legislative mandates;

(d) To monitor the effectiveness of the systems of internal control of the Organization.

25.12 The Audit and Management Consulting Division will be responsible for this subprogramme.

25.13 Achievement of the above objectives is expected to result in a better level of compliance by programme managers with the relevant rules and regulations of the Organization. The work of the subprogramme will enable the Organization to achieve better value for money in a context of scarce resources.

Subprogramme 25.3 Central monitoring and inspection

25.14 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To enhance and strengthen the management of the programmes by ensuring that both programme delivery and output are adequate, timely and in accordance with the mandates, that they address effectively the objectives of the programmes and that resources are used efficiently;

(b) To promote the monitoring and self-evaluation functions by programme managers as an integral part of their management and oversight responsibility. To that end, the subprogramme will also assist programme managers in improving their own monitoring exercise by providing them with instructions and guidelines and by developing performance indicators;

(c) To promote a constructive dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat with a view to fulfilling the mandates and achieving the objectives of the Organization;

(d) To undertake timely identification of problems affecting the full, effective and efficient implementation of programmed activities and recommend corrective measures as appropriate.

25.15 The Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit will be responsible for this subprogramme.

25.16 Achievement of the above objectives is expected to result in more efficient use of programme resources and thereby more effective achievement of programme objectives. By the end of the period covered by the plan, monitoring mechanisms will be firmly established and used as a management tool in each organizational unit.

Subprogramme 25.4 Investigations

25.17 The major objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To minimize the occurrence and risk of violations of rules and regulations of the United Nations, mismanagement, misconduct, waste of resources and abuse of authority;

(b) To improve the working environment and facilitate a more effective, efficient and economical way of using the Organization's human and financial resources;

(c) To provide guidance to the Secretary-General on jurisdictional or disciplinary action to be taken following a finding of waste, fraud or mismanagement with respect to the staff and resources of the Organization.

25.18 The Investigations Section will be responsible for implementing this subprogramme.

25.19 Achievement of the above objectives is expected to result in increased accountability of individual staff members and programme managers for areas under their control. The work of the subprogramme will provide a deterrent against potential violations as well as detect those which have already occurred.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 25.1 Central evaluation

General Assembly resolution

48/218 B	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Subprogramme 25.2 Audit and management consulting

General Assembly resolution

48/218 B	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Subprogramme 25.3 Central monitoring and inspection

General Assembly resolutions

43/219	Programme planning
44/194	Programme planning
48/218 A and B	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Subprogramme 25.4 Investigations

General Assembly resolution

48/218 B	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

PROGRAMME 26. DISARMAMENT

26.1 The mandate for the programme on disarmament stems from the Charter of the United Nations and from the aims and purposes proclaimed by the General Assembly. The implementation of this programme should be guided by the priorities established in the relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions. The Department for Disarmament Affairs is responsible for implementing this programme.

26.2 The first objective of this programme is to provide organizational and substantive secretariat support at Geneva and substantive secretariat support at Headquarters to multilateral bodies entrusted with deliberation and/or negotiations on disarmament issues, including the meeting of States parties and other international meetings related to multilateral disarmament agreements.

26.3 The second objective is to follow and assess current and future trends in the field of disarmament and international security in order to assist Member States, and to enable the Secretary-General also to assist them, in their search for agreement. Apart from substantive issues involved in the deliberative and/or negotiating process, this activity should address the challenges arising from the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions as well as relevant treaties.

26.4 The third objective will be to support and promote regional disarmament efforts and initiatives using approaches freely among the States of the region and taking into account the legitimate requirements of States for self-defence and specific characteristics of each region. Regional solutions will be more vigorously pursued as regional conflicts increasingly pose a threat to peace and security. Regional dialogue on crucial disarmament and security issues will be advanced through, inter alia, the organization of conferences.

26.5 The fourth objective consists of providing impartial, factual information on the disarmament efforts of the United Nations to Member States, parliamentarians, research and academic institutions, and specialized non-governmental organizations through the disarmament information programme and by providing Member States with full access to all relevant databases, including on disarmament. This would include, as appropriate, organizing open-ended conferences, seminars and workshops for informal exchanges of views on arms control, disarmament and international security issues. The disarmament fellowship programme will continue to be pursued with the primary objective of promoting further the disarmament expertise of Member States, particularly in the developing countries. Member States will be assisted in addressing specific disarmament concerns through the provision of training and advisory services.

26.6 The fifth objective would be to continue to inform the public on an objective and updated basis of the United Nations disarmament activities. In this context, the three regional centres for peace and disarmament established in Nepal, Peru and Togo, should be utilized. These centres should address the important security problems in their respective regions and subregions in a balanced manner.

26.7 This programme is expected to enable Member States to conduct deliberations and negotiations on disarmament issues in a smooth and efficient manner; facilitate the task of the Secretary-General in the conduct of his relations with Member States on disarmament matters; contribute to an integrated approach to issues relating to the maintenance of peace and security; and facilitate the exchange of ideas between governmental and non-governmental sectors with a view to promoting a better understanding of United Nations endeavours in the field of disarmament.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

2992 (XXVII)	Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace
31/90	Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament
S-10/2	Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly
50/71 C	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
50/76	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace
51/37	Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament
51/45 A	General and complete disarmament: Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee
51/45 P	General and complete disarmament: measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol
51/46 F	United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services
52/30	Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements
52/31	Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification
52/32	Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures
52/33	The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament
52/34	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East
52/35	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

52/36	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
52/37	Prevention of an arms race in outer space
52/38	General and complete disarmament
52/39	Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly
52/39 A	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific
52/39 B	Regional confidence-building measures
52/39 D	United Nations Disarmament Information Programme
52/40	Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session
52/41	The risk of the nuclear proliferation in the Middle East
52/42	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
52/46	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
52/47	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction
52/220, annex III	Changes to be made in the programme narratives contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals"

General Assembly decisions

S-12/24	Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly
52/414	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

PROGRAMME 27. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS AND CONFERENCE SERVICES

27.1 The major objectives of this programme are the servicing of the General Assembly and its General and Main Committees and various subsidiary organs, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary and ad hoc bodies, as well as special conferences dealing with disarmament, international security, decolonization, economic, social and related matters. It also provides meeting and documentation services to all intergovernmental and expert bodies at Headquarters, and in other locations for which it is responsible, as well as other translation and publishing services.

27.2 The basic mandates for the provision of conference services are contained in the rules of procedure of the main organs of the United Nations. Additional mandates are found in the resolutions adopted regularly by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the pattern and calendar of conferences and on the control and limitation of documentation.

27.3 Overall intergovernmental direction concerning the provision of conference services is given by the General Assembly on the advice of the Committee on Conferences, in accordance with Assembly resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, which established the terms of reference of the Committee.

27.4 The Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services is responsible for the implementation of this programme and for the achievement of its objectives.

Subprogramme 27.1 General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs

27.5 Subsumed under this subprogramme are elements that formerly constituted or were part of subprogrammes 1.5, General Assembly affairs, and 1.6, Decolonization, of programme 1, Political affairs; paragraph 5.5 (e) of subprogramme 5.1, Policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation, of programme 5, Policy coordination and sustainable development; and parts of paragraphs 26.2 and 26.7 of programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

27.6 The major objective of this subprogramme is to ensure, through the provision of authoritative advice and technical secretariat services, the orderly and procedurally correct conduct of the meetings and other work of the General Assembly, its General, First, Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth), Second and Third Committees and the subsidiary and ad hoc bodies under the aegis of the Assembly, including the Disarmament Commission and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, as well as meetings of States parties and other international meetings related to multilateral disarmament agreements; the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary and ad hoc bodies and special conferences dealing with economic, social and related matters; the Trusteeship Council, as required; the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; and other intergovernmental bodies in the fields of international security, economic, social and related areas, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council.

27.7 The General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division will prepare analytical studies on the rules and procedures of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; conduct consultations with the Presidents and bureaux of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council and the presiding officers of the Main Committees and of other intergovernmental bodies, as well as with representatives of Member States in all matters relating to the work of those bodies, with particular reference to the effective scheduling and conduct of meetings.

27.8 A further objective is to provide other technical secretariat services that formerly constituted part of subprogramme 1.6, Decolonization, of programme 1, Political affairs, such as organizational and secretariat servicing support for regional seminars in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions in accordance with the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism as well as for visiting missions and for the mandated activities of the Committee relating to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; parliamentary documentation, guidelines and rules of procedure for the regional seminars; reports and procedural documentation for the regional seminars; and secretariat servicing for the plenary meetings.

27.9 Under this subprogramme, the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division will also conduct research and prepare analytical studies on the application and interpretation of the provisions of the relevant articles of the Charter of the United Nations related to the activities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, their subsidiary and ad hoc bodies and their rules of procedure, for inclusion in the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 51/209 and 52/161, the Division will coordinate the production of the volume of the Repertory devoted to the General Assembly and will endeavour to update the Repertory and ensure its regular publication.

27.10 In order to facilitate the organization and conduct of the meetings of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and their subsidiary bodies, the Division will prepare the necessary parliamentary documentation and ensure the correct and duly authorized submission of reports and communications for processing as official General Assembly, Economic and Social Council or Trusteeship Council documents, as well as their timely issuance in accordance with the practice, programme of work and schedule of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council.

27.11 The General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division will also conduct consultations and coordinate the assignment of responsibilities for the implementation of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions and follow-up to ensure timely action by relevant bodies.

27.12 Another objective of the subprogramme is to provide technical advice and substantive services to subsidiary organs and various open-ended working groups that have been established by the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to consider major issues that will have significant impact on the work of the Organization.

Subprogramme 27.2 Planning, development and coordination of conference services

27.13 The main objectives of this subprogramme will be:

(a) To improve the global planning and coordination of conference services with rational allocation and capacity utilization of the existing conference resources;

(b) To develop and implement such new conference-servicing policies, procedures and practices as may become necessary in view of the changing activities and requirements of the Organization, in particular through regular consultation with committees and bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations to assess their needs and through the development of a cost-accounting system;

(c) To ensure that intergovernmental bodies, special conferences and Member States in general have access to meeting and documentation services in accordance with the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the various bodies and organs of the United Nations;

(d) To upgrade the technological capacity in conference services in line with new developments in technology;

(e) To ensure enforcement of regulations concerning documentation.

27.14 Relevant instruments to achieve these objectives include the preparation of the draft calendar of conferences, scheduling of meetings and documentation, provision of substantive support to the Committee on Conferences and participation in conference planning missions. Workload statistics, performance indicators and cost information will be routinely refined and provided for both Secretariat and external use (e.g., by intergovernmental bodies). Technical advice and support will be provided for the planning and introduction of technological innovations in conference services and the upgrading of existing systems.

Subprogramme 27.3 Translation and editorial services

27.15 The main objectives of this subprogramme will be:

(a) To ensure that an appropriate mix of permanent, temporary and contractual staff and adequate technological resources are available so that documentation, produced in all six official languages of the United Nations, is issued in a timely fashion, in strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the various bodies and organs of the United Nations;

(b) To increase the efficiency and to improve the quality of the translation and editorial services.

27.16 During the period covered by the plan, self-revision will be used within reasonable limits while safeguarding standards of quality. There will be increased reliance on contractual translation through a gradual expansion of the roster of contractors. By the end of the period, it is expected that wide access to reference and terminology databases and the electronic transmission of texts will facilitate the work of translators and editors and permit more efficient modes of work, including expanded workload-sharing among conference centres, thereby improving quality, timeliness and cost-effectiveness.

Subprogramme 27.4 Interpretation, meeting and publishing services

27.17 The main objectives will be:

(a) To provide meeting and documentation services in a timely, efficient manner while maintaining a high standard of quality;

(b) To ensure the timely and efficient production, distribution and storage of documents and publications in the official languages of the Organization six weeks in advance of all meetings.

27.18 To achieve these objectives, the departmental application of advanced electronic information management and communications technology will continue in order to establish an appropriate balance between printed and electronic products, to set up new electronic links in the production process from initial submission of documents to reproduction, distribution and storage, and to develop the remote provision of interpretation and verbatim reporting services. External printing will be reduced through the use of desktop publishing in all official languages and, when cost-effective, through the use of in-house reproduction capacity. The reproduction and distribution functions will be streamlined as print runs are reduced as a result of widespread access to electronic documents stored on optical disk and an expanded capacity for printing on demand.

Legislative mandates

Legislative mandates for the creation of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services

General Assembly resolutions

52/12	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
52/220	Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 27.1 General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs

Relevant articles of the Charter of the United Nations

General Assembly resolutions

S-10/2	Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly
52/12	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
52/220	Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Subprogramme 27.2 Planning, development and coordination of conference services

General Assembly resolutions

49/237	Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

50/11	Multilingualism
50/206, 51/211 and 52/214	Pattern of conferences

PROGRAMME 28. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

28.1 The overall orientation of the programme is to further, as a central mission of the Organization, the promotion of development and to strengthen the contribution of the United Nations to international cooperation in the economic and social fields. The United Nations is in a unique position to address the challenges of promoting development in the context of the globalization of the world economy and the deepening interdependence among nations. The programme will facilitate a more active and effective role of the Organization in promoting international cooperation for development and provide support for policy development on global development issues. The consolidation under this programme of the economic and social activities previously carried out under three separate programmes serves to reinforce the organizational capabilities available at Headquarters. It also improves the overall effectiveness of the Secretariat, which is now in a position to provide integrated support for policy formulation, analytical and normative functions and relevant technical cooperation activities. The programme maintains a distinct capacity for gathering and analysing economic and social data, consolidates capacities for policy analysis and coordination and strengthens support in the key areas of sustainable development, social development and gender issues and the advancement of women. It also enhances substantive support for the intergovernmental processes in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

28.2 Furthermore, the integration of the three programmes creates a crucial interface between global policies and national action and between research, policy and operational activities, thereby facilitating the translation of international agreements into strategies at the country level and feeding back lessons learned and experiences gained from the country level into the international policy development process. This integration serves to enhance Secretariat support for coherent and integrated policy development by the concerned intergovernmental bodies and reinforces coordination between the intergovernmental and the intersecretariat machineries.

28.3 In implementing the programme, particular attention will be paid to the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 21, taking into account the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, as well as the special needs of Africa, the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as to South-South cooperation. The programme will be further guided by the need for empowering women, which is essential to the achievement of its goals, inter alia, through gender mainstreaming and advocacy and design of policies to achieve relevant targets.

28.4 The mandates for the programme, which is under the responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, derive from (a) the Secretariat's responsibility to provide substantive support to the General Assembly, in particular the Second and Third Committees, and the Economic and Social Council and relevant subsidiary bodies; (b) relevant resolutions concerning international economic cooperation; and (c) resolutions on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, on operational activities for development, on public administration and development and on relevant aspects of the mandate of the Secretary-General, including his responsibilities as the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. The Agenda for Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/240 of 20 June 1997, provides a broad frame of reference and policy guidance for the activities in support of international cooperation for development. The overall policy framework for the programme is based also on the programmes and platforms of action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

28.5 By the end of the period covered by the plan, it is expected that the Department, by integrating capacities for normative, analytical, statistical and technical cooperation activities to maximize complementarity and synergy within its organizational components, would have accomplished the following:

(a) Strengthened the role of the Organization as a forum for debate and consensus-building in the economic and social spheres and facilitated international debate and dialogue on development cooperation;

(b) Rendered better assistance to Member States, through the provision of effective support to standing political processes and relevant ad hoc processes, in the development of integrated and coordinated policy responses to development issues and to emerging global problems, including in negotiating global agreements on norms, standards and cooperative action, as well as in enhancing the effectiveness of operational activities for development;

(c) Promoted the implementation of agreed plans, strategies, programmes or platforms for action, including the outcome of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related areas, and monitored, as appropriate, the implementation of agreed plans, strategies, programmes or platforms for action for which the Department is responsible for assisting intergovernmental follow-up and review processes;

(d) Improved support to the coordination function of central intergovernmental bodies and provided better assistance to the Secretary-General in enhancing policy coherence and coordination, both within the United Nations and among organizations of the United Nations system;

(e) Improved analytical work for better monitoring, analysis and evaluation of global economic and social policies and trends, including population trends, enhanced the framework of projection and identification of new and emerging issues, provided a more effective mainstreaming of gender issues and monitoring of advancement and empowerment of women, enabled a better understanding of the role of the State and the public sector in development and facilitated the formulation and monitoring of development strategies and goals at the international, regional, subregional and national levels through better dissemination of analytical statistical data and economic and social indicators;

(f) Supported the efforts of Governments in formulating development strategies and building their national capacities aimed at the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences, at the request of Governments and in accordance with their national policies, in such fields as economic and social development, gender issues and advancement of women, public administration and finance, and natural resources and energy management, through the provision of more effective advisory services, supplemented by research and training;

(g) Enabled a more effective review of emerging issues and better sharing of experiences and best practices at the national level;

(h) Strengthened the human, institutional and policy-making capabilities of Member States, in particular by bolstering, whenever appropriate, South-South cooperation, taking into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences and relevant decisions by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant intergovernmental bodies in this regard;

(i) Facilitated linkages between the United Nations and civil society, within the framework of relevant mandates, and developed innovative means of cooperation and modes of partnership in areas of common interest, especially operational activities for development at the country level.

Subprogramme 28.1 Economic and Social Council support and coordination

28.6 The goal of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, is to strengthen the policy management and coordinating roles of the Economic and Social Council as well as enable the Council to better fulfil its role in the policy dialogue on macroeconomic issues. The main objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To develop proposals and provide support to central intergovernmental bodies for the integrated and coordinated policy responses to issues of development and to emerging global problems in the economic and social fields;

(b) To facilitate and promote greater cooperation and collaboration among the organizations of the United Nations system active in the economic and social areas;

(c) To increase the Organization's capacity to serve as a focal point for the non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and to improve coordination of activities of non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the procedures of the United Nations, so as to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity and to enhance opportunities to facilitate participation of relevant elements of civil society in the activities of intergovernmental bodies, in accordance with the decisions of those bodies;

(d) To promote and strengthen coherence and restructuring within the United Nations system in the area of operational activities for development consistent with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and taking into account the role and mandates of the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes. To that end, the Department will seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness, coherence and coordination of operational activities of the system at the country level, in particular those financed on a grant basis in support of development efforts, and to encourage integration with national efforts through such approaches as a programme approach, national execution and country strategy notes, at the request of the recipient Governments as may be appropriate;

(e) To promote the implementation of the decisions taken by major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related areas and of the Agenda for Development.

Subprogramme 28.2 Gender issues and advancement of women

28.7 The subprogramme, implemented by the Division for the Advancement of Women, will seek to achieve effective support for the implementation of actions contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, including through expanded interaction with civil society. As set out in chapter V of the Platform for Action and other intergovernmental decisions, the subprogramme will build on its nodal position within the Organization to promote mainstreaming of gender concerns, reflecting a rights-based approach centred on equality between women and men, to provide advisory services to Member States and to ensure accountability among all actors responsible for implementing the Platform for Action in a manner consistent with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

28.8 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To monitor the extent to which gender issues are mainstreamed in the work of intergovernmental forums and in policies and programmes of work of the departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, the organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and Member States, and to analyse and develop, as required, policy issues of increasing importance or which may be emerging as global trends, as well as to facilitate the debate of intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(b) To improve the monitoring of the extent of women's enjoyment of their human rights and of whether violations of those rights are dealt with by all human rights mechanisms, including, in particular, through enhanced support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

(c) To contribute to the development and strengthening of human rights mechanisms dealing specifically with women's human rights, including the provision of technical support for the working group on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or the increased use of existing mechanisms, in particular in the context of the coordination and follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

(d) To provide effective support for the implementation of actions described in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of related recommendations of other global conferences through policy analysis and monitoring activities and to undertake the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(e) To strengthen the coordination of the monitoring of the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, to facilitate the intergovernmental monitoring of system-wide implementation of commitments under the Platform for Action, including support to the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and to improve further the coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its relevant mechanisms, such as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women;

(f) To provide gender advisory services to developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, notably with regard to the full enjoyment of human rights by women, the establishment of national institutional mechanisms, the formulation of national action plans and strategies and such issues as governance and gender;

(g) To design and maintain a system of information exchange with Governments, including national mechanisms for the empowerment and advancement of women, and those constituencies actively following up the implementation of the Platform for Action.

Subprogramme 28.3 Social policy and development

28.9 This subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Social Policy and Development, will seek to strengthen international cooperation for social development, with particular attention to the three core issues of poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration, in the context of the comprehensive and detailed framework of commitments and policies for action by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations provided by the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development The Division will draw upon the decisions taken by the Commission for Social Development regarding the multi-year programme of work on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for a review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

28.10 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and to undertake preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for a review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. The subprogramme will promote common norms, policies and cooperative actions aimed at facilitating the realization, in an integrated manner, of the Summit's objectives and will develop integrated approaches to issues that cut across the economic, social and cultural domains, with particular emphasis on the contribution to social cohesion of policies to reduce poverty and achieve full employment. The subprogramme will also contribute to the efforts by the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty, in the context of both the objectives of the Summit and activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

(b) To promote the implementation and coordinate the preparation and monitoring of United Nations declarations and programmes of action relevant to social development, such as the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the International Year of the Family (1994) and the International Year of Older Persons (1999). These activities relate principally to the integration into society of groups, as well as families, who because of their vulnerability or lack of power are not participating fully in the life of the community;

(c) To strengthen participation and cooperation among all actors concerned with social development, as well as promotion of actions towards accomplishing the priorities of national programmes and internationally agreed norms;

(d) To enable the world community to respond to persistent and emerging issues in socio-economic development through monitoring of socio-economic trends, identification of emerging issues and analysis of their implications for policy at the national and international levels;

(e) To enhance the technical and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to formulate and implement policies and programmes to promote social and economic development, and to accelerate and support socio-economic aspects of reconstruction and rehabilitation processes in countries after conflicts through the provision, at the request of Governments, of advisory services and by formulating, executing, monitoring and evaluating technical cooperation activities, including applied research.

Subprogramme 28.4 Sustainable development

28.11 The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Sustainable Development, will seek to ensure the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session and the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of bodies responsible for energy and natural resources.

28.12 In its work programme in support of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Division will give the necessary attention to the economic and social dimensions of sustainability. It will also draw up specific programmes as follow-up to the decisions taken in Agenda 21 and by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session regarding the provision of adequate and predictable new and additional financial resources to developing countries, changing production and consumption patterns and mechanisms for the transfer of technology to those countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed in paragraph 34.14 (b) of Agenda 21, and address poverty as an overriding issue. Furthermore, pursuant to the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly and the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, support will be provided to intergovernmental processes on forests, fresh water and energy, as well as such new areas of international cooperation as tourism and transport.

28.13 The implementation of these activities will be carried out without prejudice to the role of the Secretariat as stated in other relevant programmes of the medium-term plan dealing with environment.

28.14 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote effective implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the outcomes of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, and the achievement of sustainable development worldwide;

(b) To identify new issues to be brought to the attention of the Commission on Sustainable Development for its consideration, including the assessment of new critical areas of sustainability. To that end, the subprogramme will continue to develop a comprehensive framework to integrate better the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the General Assembly. Within that context, a strong emphasis will be placed not only on the integration of relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21, but also on incorporating into that framework the results of other major United Nations conferences held in recent years;

(c) To monitor the implementation of sustainable development goals through the assessment of data collected at the national, regional and international levels, and to complete work (in cooperation with other United Nations and non-United Nations entities) on indicators of sustainable development and their application. The Secretariat will also continue to serve as a custodian of data provided by the Member States through national reports. Emphasis will be placed on facilitating the access of Governments and non-State actors to information, in electronic form, related to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;

(d) To strengthen coordinated approaches towards implementing the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development among the organizations of the United Nations system through the Inter-Agency Committee for Sustainable Development, for which the Division provides the secretariat. In that capacity, the Division will seek (i) to integrate further the concept of sustainable development into the work of all relevant United Nations organizations and (ii) to coordinate the monitoring of the implementation of various parts of Agenda 21 for which different bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, have been assigned the function of task manager;

(e) To promote a dialogue with and involvement of major groups, including business and industry, the scientific community, farmers and non-governmental organizations, in the work of the Commission and in sustainable development activities in general;

(f) To support international cooperation, in particular South-South cooperation, in the area of sustainable development, including through regional and subregional exchanges of experiences in the implementation of Agenda 21;

(g) To strengthen the capacity of Governments, at their request:

(i) To formulate sustainable development strategies and programmes to enable Governments and local communities to improve economic and social conditions among all vulnerable groups. Such strategies will include measures to expand community access to credit in rural areas and institutional assistance to income-generating artisanal industries and other small enterprises based on reliable access to energy, water and other natural resources, in particular in the least developed countries;

(ii) To foster effective planning and management of natural resources, promote an iterative and multisectoral approach to water resources development, management and use that integrates technological, socio-economic, environmental and human health considerations and involves local initiatives and participation in such development efforts and to formulate policies on mineral resources that encourage environmentally sound production practices;

(iii) To develop, utilize and commercialize new and renewable energy sources, to develop national and indigenous capacity in the assessment and management of energy resources and services, to introduce changes in energy consumption patterns, focusing on conservation measures and demand-side management, to facilitate international and interregional connections for the transmission of electric power and transport of natural gas, and to promote technology transfer.

Subprogramme 28.5 Statistics

28.15 The subprogramme, for which the Statistical Division is responsible, will focus on the following main objectives during the period covered by the plan:

(a) Over the years, the subprogramme has contributed to the significant progress in the international collection, standardization, analysis and dissemination of economic, social and related data. The first objective is to improve the usefulness and accessibility of international economic and social data to policy makers, both international and national. The availability of international statistics and their usefulness for policy purposes will be broadened and their quality enhanced to reinforce the United Nations role as a centre of excellence in statistics. For example, given the increasing globalization of the world economy, an increasing number of decision makers at all levels will require data on international transactions. Accordingly, an essential task of the subprogramme will be to sustain the function of the United Nations as a global centre for data on international trade. The same will apply to systems dedicated to environment, energy, transport, national accounts and demographic and social statistics;

(b) A milestone was passed with the finalization of the 1993 System of National Accounts. The objective now is to expand the number of countries that are in a position to implement the new system. To achieve this objective, the Secretariat, in close collaboration with other international organizations, will continue to improve economic statistics in general and to promote the system in particular, including through training and other forms of technical cooperation;

(c) Agenda 21 calls for the development and implementation of integrated environmental and economic accounting and indicators of sustainable development in order to provide the information necessary to formulate policies and strategies for sustainable development at the national and international levels. A third objective will be to improve the international community's ability to measure the environmental impact of human activity and expenditures related to the environment. The subprogramme will address relevant concepts and methods in order to obtain international agreement on their use and usefulness, compile environmental statistics and indicators and promote the implementation of integrated environmental and economic accounts at the national level;

(d) The global conferences held in recent years have highlighted the need for more and better statistics to describe and monitor progress in the human dimensions of development. A fourth objective will be to develop and promote the use of consistent and integrated sets of social statistics (including, in particular, demographic, housing, gender and disability statistics), to develop and disseminate social indicators and to enhance analytical capabilities in this area. The subprogramme will pay particular attention to the implementation of the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme and other activities aimed at improving country capability regularly to produce timely demographic and social statistics;

(e) To promote the use of modern surveying and mapping techniques as a tool for infrastructure and land-use planning for sustainable development, including assistance to various cartographic, cadastral and hydrographic services at the national and local levels.

28.16 The subprogramme will also continue to emphasize the coordination and development of international statistical standards and classifications across a broad spectrum of statistics and provide for improved coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and other relevant statistics-producing intergovernmental organizations.

Subprogramme 28.6 Population

28.17 Population, with its various dimensions, is one of the major challenges confronting the international community. To address that challenge, the subprogramme, for which the Population Division is responsible, will aim at increasing the understanding of the nature of population phenomena, in particular the interrelationships between population and development, and at providing technical cooperation in population. This increased understanding and knowledge will facilitate the work of the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on Population and Development, in the substantive coordination of activities of the United Nations system in the field of population and the formulation of policy recommendations.

28.18 The objectives of this subprogramme are as follows:

(a) To expand the leading role of the Department (i) in providing accurate and timely information and analyses of population trends and policies and (ii) in monitoring and reporting on substantive elements of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(b) In order to formulate policy, Governments need information on population trends and their interrelationships with social and economic development. To that end, the subprogramme will facilitate the access by Governments to information on population trends and their interrelationships with social and economic development as an input to policy formulation through the preparation of the official United Nations demographic estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world, as well as urban and rural areas and major cities. Those estimates and projections provide the standard and consistent sets of population figures that are used throughout the United Nations system as the basis for activities requiring population information;

(c) The far-reaching consequences of population phenomena and their interrelationships with social and economic development are giving rise to increasing demands by countries and regions for relevant population information and analyses. A third objective will be to increase the understanding of the social, economic and other factors that will affect mortality, fertility, migration and population growth, and how population change, in turn, affects the social, economic and environmental conditions of people;

(d) Changing international demographic conditions, such as the AIDS pandemic, and new developments on such issues as international migration, as well as the ageing of populations, call for innovative strategies and policies at both the national and international levels. To that end, the subprogramme will increase awareness about emerging population issues requiring the attention of the international community;

(e) Another objective of the subprogramme is to increase Member States' capacity to formulate national population and related policies for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on

Population and Development and to improve their institutional capabilities for the collection and analysis of national population information.

Subprogramme 28.7 Global development trends, issues and policies

28.19 The overall purpose of the subprogramme, for which the Division for Development Policy Analysis is responsible, will be to assist the international community in identifying emerging challenges and addressing persistent problems in global development. The subprogramme will enhance understanding of global economic and social issues and problems, contribute to improving national and international policies in these areas and facilitate the exploration of new forms of international cooperation for development. More specifically, the subprogramme will focus on three main objectives, as follows:

(a) Promotion of development and fostering of international economic cooperation through the exploration of national and international policy options. This will be achieved by monitoring and assessing, from a global perspective, economic and social developments and policies, especially those with an international dimension. Work will focus on economic reform and structural change in the developing countries, including their implications for economic growth and development, and on the economic and social transformation of the countries with economies in transition, including their integration into the world economy. It will also address the macroeconomic performance and policies of the industrialized countries and their effects on the world economy;

(b) Provision of assistance to Governments in their consideration of issues pertaining to the financing of development, including trends in public and private international financial flows, the net transfer of resources to developing countries, the behaviour of global financial markets and international cooperation in these areas, and monitoring of changes in the external debt situation and identification of innovative approaches and strategies to resolve the difficulties of countries with debt-servicing problems;

(c) Contribution to economic policy-making at the national and international levels and provision of assistance to Member States and intergovernmental bodies in the early identification of new and emerging issues in the world economy by providing short-term economic forecasts, assessments of development prospects, alternative scenarios and perspective studies of long-term global trends in economic and social development.

Subprogramme 28.8 Public administration, finance and development

28.20 The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration, is to assist in intergovernmental policy deliberations on the role of public administration, public finance and public economics in the development process. The subprogramme also provides assistance to interested Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening their capacity for socio-economic development management, including infrastructure, which is necessary for their institutional and human resources development as well as policy analysis and policy-making, and also in implementing relevant commitments agreed upon at major United Nations conferences. The subprogramme will also ensure interface between the intergovernmental policy deliberations and the relevant operational work of the organizations of the United Nations system active in this field, in particular UNDP and the World Bank.

28.21 More specifically, the objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To meet the needs of Member States for information and policy-oriented analysis on the role of the State and market mechanisms in national efforts to ensure economic stability, foster economic growth and increase efficiency and distributional equity by providing them with analytical studies on the current patterns and trends in the fields of public revenue and public expenditure, as well as on the potential and shortcomings of market solutions to problems of allocation, distribution and regulation of services and goods, in particular with regard to those services and goods that used to be provided by the State or the public sector, at the national and international levels;

(b) To respond to requests from Governments and intergovernmental bodies for information, methodologies, assessments and policy proposals regarding the linkages between political and economic issues and policies and to prepare reports, as required, on the economic and social impact of United Nations-imposed sanctions, the imposition of coercive economic measures, the implications of the peace-development link and selected aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(c) To facilitate intergovernmental dialogue on available approaches, systems and methods in public administration and, in particular, to serve as a clearing house for information and experiences in the field of public administration for development, by utilizing new and cost-effective technological approaches in the collection, maintenance and dissemination of information, in particular best practices, with a view to their adaptation and replication in interested countries;

(d) To strengthen the capacity of Governments, at their request, for policy development, administrative restructuring, civil service reform, human resources development and public administration training by improving performance in the public sector, increasing public/private sector interaction, improving the management of development programmes, enhancing government legal capacity, including the capacity to establish a regulatory framework for effective economic activities, and elaborating strategies, at the request of interested countries, for the reconstruction of a viable public administration in the countries that are undergoing rehabilitation and reconstruction once a conflict is over;

(e) To broaden the resource mobilization and revenue administration capacities of Governments, to enhance the efficiency and performance of tax administration and to improve financial management skills in budgeting systems and techniques, accounting and auditing;

(f) To promote and enhance the dissemination of public sector information systems, including new techniques and modalities to improve the performance of public administration and the delivery of public services.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 28.1 Economic and Social Council support and coordination

General Assembly resolutions

48/209	Operational activities for development: field offices of the United Nations development system

50/120	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
50/227	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
51/240	Agenda for Development
52/12 A and B	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
52/186	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1986/72	Protection against products harmful to health and the environment
1996/31	Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1995/1	Coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Subprogramme 28.2 Gender issues and advancement of women

General Assembly resolutions

34/180	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
52/93	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
52/98	Traffic in women and girls
52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action
52/195	Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decision

1992/19	Communications on the status of women
1995/29	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
1996/6	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
1996/34	System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women

1997/227	Renewal of the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system

Subprogramme 28.3 Social policy and development

General Assembly resolutions

50/81	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/107	Observance of the International Year of the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation
50/120	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
50/144	Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond
51/58	The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends
52/25	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
52/80	International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages
52/81	Follow-up to the International Year of the Family
52/82	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century
52/83	Policies and programmes involving youth
52/193	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1996/7	Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the future role of the Commission for Social Development

1997/55	Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to th Year 2000 and Beyond, including a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1996/1	Coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication

Subprogramme 28.4 Sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
50/116	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries ar a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation
50/126	Water supply and sanitation
S-19/2	Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1992/62	Establishment of new subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Socia Council
1996/44	Coordination of the activities of the organizations of the Unite Nations system in the field of energy
1996/49	Integration of key minerals issues into the implementation of Agenda 21
1996/50	Integrated water resources development and management
1996/231	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fourt session and provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission
1996/303	Recommendations of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development at its second session
1997/53	Consumer protection
1997/63	Programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 and future methods of work of the Commission
1997/65	Establishment of an open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forest

Subprogramme 28.5 Statistics

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
50/124	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1564 (L)	Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system
1566 (L)	Coordination of work in the field of statistics
1989/3	International economic classifications
1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
1993/226	Sixth and Seventh United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names
1995/7	2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme
1995/61	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
1997/221	Fourteenth and Fifteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific
1997/292	Sixth and Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for the Americas

Subprogramme 28.6 Population

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights

49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action
51/176	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
52/188	Population and development
52/189	International migration and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1994/2	Work programme in the field of population
1995/55	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
1997/2	International migration and development
1997/42	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

Commission on Population and Development resolutions and decisions

1995/1	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development
1997/1	Technical symposium on international migration
1997/2	Reporting requirements to the Commission on Population and Development
1997/3	Work programme in the field of population
1998/1	Health and mortality

Subprogramme 28.7 Global development trends, issues and policies

General Assembly resolutions

S-18/3	Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries
47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
50/227	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

51/165	Net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries
51/173	Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade
51/175	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
51/240	Agenda for Development
52/179	Global partnership for development: high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development
52/180	Global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries
52/185	Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries
52/186	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Subprogramme 28.8 Public administration, finance and development

General Assembly resolutions

46/166	Entrepreneurship
47/171	Privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development
48/180	Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development
50/51	Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions
50/103	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation
50/120	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/225	Public administration and development
51/175	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

51/240	Agenda for Development
51/242	Supplement to an Agenda for Peace
52/18	Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies
52/38 D	Relationship between disarmament and development
52/162	Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions
52/169 H	Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
52/181	Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
52/193	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
52/196	Developing human resources for development
52/203	Operational activities for development of the United Nations
52/205	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
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1273 (XLIII)	Tax treaties between developed and developing countries
1982/45	International cooperation in tax matters
1996/42	Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120
1997/59	Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly